Dec. 24. Nov. 36.

48073
5400B

Legation of the United States.

No 23. Shang Hai 2nd Sept. 1856.

His Excellency.
William L. Marcy.
Secretary of State of the United States.
Washington.

Sir,

I have now the honor to address you in relation to the revision of the treaty & the political state of China. Also to transmit Correspondence with the British & French Legations. & the Commander of the U. S. Naval forces in the East in relation to the first subject. From this you will be able to form a general view of my position in relation to the Revision of the treaty. & the obstacles with which I have had to contend. & the influences before which I have been compelled to bow.

That I am not now in Peking. or its neighborhood is not my fault. Whether like unforeseen causes are still to keep me at a distance, postpone the revision of the treaty. & the redress of our grievances. the future will reveal. My desire & purpose

of

of carrying out the Instructions of the President will only be abandoned, if at all, when it shall become manifest that the means & the opportunity of so doing, are not within my reach. — That they are not to be carried out in precisely the manner contemplated, & under circumstances best calculated to crown them with success, is certain. The Naval force, desirable for the occasion, not to say indispensible, is not at hand. Whether the U. S. Ship 'Portsmouth' will be here in time to join the U. S. S. Frigate 'San Jacinto' & the Ship 'Levant' doubtful. The 'San Jacinto' left Hong Kong for Japan on the 11th inst. & it was the expectation of Commore James Armstrong to be here by the 10th inst. but may not arrive till the 15th or 20th inst. But, as stated in a former note, if the Naval force is not at hand before October, I shall not consider the season too far advanced to attempt to reach the Northern Capital, if I have then sufficient encouragement to attempt it. The contemplated plan of concurrent action on the part of Great Britain, France, & the

United

United States never appeared to me more wise, or desirable, than at this moment & with our present knowledge of the State of the Empire. yet the causes that have operated to frustrate that plan thus far, seem not to be the result of policy or choice on the part of the former two powers, but the effect of influences superior to the will of even Sovereign States. That the extraordinary impediments hitherto to the accomplishment of this three fold concurrent policy & action emanate from an all-over-ruling Will, may yet become manifest. Whatever may be the explanation of the fact, nevertheless the fact exists, that public sentiment is undergoing a remarkable change in reference to the relative position, & prospects of Imperialists & Insurgents. Merchants of the first intelligence both English and American who have been accustomed to speak of the Insurgents only in disparaging terms, now speak of them with consideration.

Intelligence from Nanking is received almost daily, & uniformly of a character indicative of order, leniency, &

wise

wise policy on the part of the Insurgents. Private rights of person & property of men & women are said to be respected. As new cities & districts are added to the new government, the local Rulers are selected by the people & made responsible for their acts to the Government at Nanking——— Taxation is lighter than under the Imperialists.

The stole letters originally addressed to the Reviser, but from prudential considerations were finally addressed to the original Negociator, of the treaty of Wanghia, published in the "North China Herald" 3rd May & 7th June last, & a letter addressed me by the same Author 4th Augt & published, with change of address, under the signature T, in the N. C. Herald of the 16th Augt are calculated to produce an impression upon the public mind, from the facts & arguments they contain, but nearly simultaneously corroborative intelligence coming unexpectedly from many & independent sources, have no doubt greatly contributed to this change.

The cause of the Imperialists does not seem to prosper. Flood in the South, drought

in the North. different circumstances producing a like Catastrophe. the destruction of the crops, & anarchy & rebellion in many provinces are prominent features of the times. . The death of the Manchow General Mih. the Provincial Judge & Literary Chancelor, in Canton, & more recently of Keih. Keh hangah, Governor of this Province, & since the date of last Mail. Field marshal Heang-Yung for several years Commander in Chief of the forces near Nanking, with a scarcity of able officers to supply their places are noticeable events. — It is reported from Peking & confirmed from Canton. His Excellency Yëe has been appointed to succeed Heang Yung, but that he is disinclined to accept the honor of a service, which it is believed will be his perdition. That the Imperial government feel in an unprecedented degree the extremity to which it is reduced by Civil war is indicated in many ways. I am permitted to state on the authority of the individual himself, the Head of one of the first Houses in Shanghai, he has been offered <u>three lacks of dollars</u> to break up his present business connections & <u>ostensibly</u> as an agent of patriotic Chinese <u>Merchants</u> who will furnish the means, proceed to Europe, & purchase Steamers, employ Europeans, Soldiers, Artillery men & Engineers to

instruct

instruct the Chinese troops & to aid in putting down the domestic foe! Officers have recently visited this place for the purpose of purchasing Steamers, one has recently been bought. & another is here for sale. I have been applied to, to know if American Citizens will be allowed to officer & work an American Steamer if sold to the Chinese, to be employed in the war. I replied that the Chinese have the right to purchase the Steamer, but it is not expedient, to say the least, that U. S. Citizens should be thus engaged, & my views were adopted. —— That the Manchow Government will never recover its lost possessions South of the Yang-tse-Keang, some confidently believe, others, say they know not what to think, or if public responsibility rested upon them, should hesitate what to do. — On the other hand, the Insurgents seem to be in prosperous circumstances. Their Commissariat supplies are ample, & as far as known, they are fearless of the power that opposes them, & sanguine of success. They only wait for water in the Canals & rivers to descend in Soo-Chow ninety miles to the North-west from Shanghae & Hangchow to the South. Under these circumstances

it

it is natural to infer the Imperialists will be only too happy to make foreign Nations their friends, but long experience has shewn that Western logic will not always apply to the Chinese.

I will only add, I shall adhere to the instructions of my Government, were it certain that the present Dynasty will have paped away within eighteen months. I should not omit to obtain all the concessions possible while it continues, at the same time pursuing a course, which according to the principles of international law shall not give umbrage to any future Rulers of the Empire.

For the Exhibits of the enclosed correspondence please refer to the Index prefixed, and I beg respectfully to invite your attention particularly to the communication of His Excellency Yeh of the 30th June & my reply of the 8th August - Also to any correspondence with Sir John Bowring, and Commodore Armstrong generally, and to Sir John Bowrings Despatch No 147 of 1st July, and my reply of the 12th August, particularly.

With

With sentiments of distinguished consideration. – I have the honor to remain,

Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most obed.t Serv.t

Peter Parker

Despatch No. 23 — 2nd Sept. 1856.

Index.

Corespondence with English & French Legations

1a.	P. Parker to Sir John Bowring —	June	30.	1856
1b.	Do. . Count delaney —	"	"	"
1c.	Sir John Bowring to P. Parker —	July	1	"
1d.	Count delaney to Do. (Translation)	"	7	"
1e.	P. Parker to Sir John Bowring	Augt.	12	"
1f.	Sir John Bowring to P. Parker —	June	10	"
1g.	P. Parker to Sir John Bowring —	"	11	"
	Ditto. with Com: Armstrong.			
2a.	Com: Armstrong to P. Parker	June	13	"
2b.	P. Parker to Com: Armstrong —	"	27	"
2c.	Com: Armstrong to P. Parker —	"	27	"
2d.	Com: Armstrong to Commander W. Smith	"	28	"
2e.	P. Parker to Commodore Armstrong	"	31	"
2f.	Do. Do.	Augt.	12	"
2g.	Com. armstrong to P. Parker —	"	11	"
	Canton Vc.			
3a.	S. W. Williams to P. Parker —	July	28	"
3b.	H. C. Yei to P. Parker	June	30	"
3c.	P. Parker to H. C. Yei	Augt.	0	"
3d.	P. Parker to S. W. Williams	"	12	"
3e.	P. Parker to O. H. Perry	June	30	"
3f.	P. Parker to S. W. Williams	July	1	"
3g.	Rufell & Co. (Shanghae) Circular	Sept.	4	"

Despatch No 23. Exhibit 1a

2nd Sept. 1856.

(Copy.)

Legation of the United States.
U.S. Ship "Levant"
Hong Kong. 30th June 1856.

Sir,

In accordance with that harmony of view subsisting between our respective governments as regards their policy towards the government of China, and the desire that has been expressed for pursuing a concurrent action by their Representatives in China in carrying out that policy, particularly in relation to the revision of treaties, I deem it proper in a few words to acquaint Your Excellency with my plans so far as formed.

I propose to embark on the 1st proximo in the U.S. Ship "Levant" for Shanghae visiting the intermediate ports of Amoy, Foo Chow, & Ningpo, "en route". - At Foo Chow it will be my endeavor to have an interview with H.E. Wang, Vice-roy of the Min & Chih provinces. If circumstances

His Excellency
Sir John Bowring L.L.D.
Her Britanic Majestys Minister Plenipotentiary
&c &c &c
Hong Kong.

favor

favor I may visit other than the above-named ports. At Shang Hai I expect to be joined by Commodore James Armstrong with the U. S. Steam Frigate "San Jacinto". Commodore Armstrong expresses his sanguine expectations, in the ordinary course of events, to have performed his duties as respects Japan, & to be at Shang Hai by the 10th August when "he will be very much at my service". - From the 20th August to the 1st September it is my wish to proceed with such U. S. Naval force as may be then available to the Gulf of Pih Chi-le with a view to opening negociations for the Revision of the Treaty of Wang-Hia. - A course to which my Instructions restrict me.

I need not assure Your Excellency of the extreme satisfaction it will afford me to learn in the mean time that the long expected Instructions and Authority from Her Britanic Majesty's Government, & from His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of the French, shall have been received & thus concurrent & simultaneous action on

the part of the three great western Powers so much to be desired still be realized.

If anything shall occur to render the plan above defined impracticable I shall inform Your Excellency by the earliest opportunity.

In thus briefly addressing Your Excellency it will be apparent, that many things that have been fully considered, are assumed to be mutually understood. With sentiments of esteem & distinguished consideration, I have the honor to remain

Sir,

Your Excellency's

Very Obed.t Serv.t

(Signed.) Peter Parker.

Despatch No 23. Exhibit 1.b

2nd Sept. 1856

Copy.

Legation of the U.States.

U. S. Ship 'Levant'.

Hong Kong. 30th June 1856

Sir.

In accordance with that harmony of view subsisting between our respective Governments as regards their policy towards the Government of China, & the desire that has been expressed for pursuing a concurrent action by their Representatives in China in carrying out that policy, particularly in relation to the revision of treaties, I deem it proper in a few words to acquaint you with my plans so far as formed.

I propose to embark on the 1st prox. in the U. S. Ship 'Levant' for Shang Hae visiting the intermediate ports of Amoy, Foo Chow, & Ningpo, en route. At Foo Chow it will be my endeavor to have an interview with H.E. Wang, Vice Roy of the Min & Chuh Provinces. If circumstances favor I may visit other than the above named ports. At Shang Hae I expect to be joined by Commodore James Armstrong with the U. S. Steam Frigate "San Jacinto". Commodore Armstrong expresses his sanguine

The Honorable

Count de Lourey.

Chargé d'Affaires de France en Chine

Macao.

expectations

expectations, in the ordinary course of events, to have performed his duties as respects Japan, to be at Shang Hai by the 10th August when he will be very much at my service. - From the 20th August to the 1st September it is my wish to proceed with such U. S. Naval force as may be then available to the Gulf of Pe Che le with a view to opening negociations for the Revision of the Treaty of Wang Hia. - A course to which my Instructions restrict me.

I need not assure you of the extreme satisfaction it will afford me to learn in the mean-time that the long expected Instructions & Authority from Her Britannic Majesty's Government, & from His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of the French, shall have been received & thus concurrent and simultaneous action on the part of the three great Western Powers so much to be desired, still be realized.

If any thing shall occur to render the plan above defined impracticable I shall inform you by the earliest opportunity.

In thus briefly addressing you it will be apparent, that many things that have been fully considered, are assumed to be mutually understood.

With sentiments of esteem & distinguished

consideration.

I have the honor to remain . .

Sir .

Your very Obed.t Serv.t

Peter Parker.

Despatch No 23 Exhibit 1.c

2nd Sept. 1856

Superintendency of Trade

No 147. Hong Kong 1st July 1856.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge Your Excellency's letter of yesterday's date & to thank you for the frank & friendly exposition of your intentions which it conveys.

I have nothing more at heart than to lend an earnest & cordial co-operation for the purpose of effecting a revision of our treaties & the giving to our Commercial relations with China more developements & greater security. But I deem the question one of extreme difficulty & only to be usefully entered on by the display of a becoming Naval armament to support Diplomatic Authority.

I regret to convey to you my opinion that to proceed to the Gulf of Peh-Che-le with an inadequate force will in no respect advance the settlement of the question or place matters on a better foundation than they were left by His Excellency Mr Mc Lane & myself after our expedition in 1854. I am quite willing & desirous to approach the Capital of China whenever I can do so in a manner to enforce respect & obtain attention, but by

subjecting

subjecting ourselves to new humiliations and repulses which we neither resent nor supersede we shall, in my judgment, retard instead of advance the objects we seek to accomplish. - Another failure at Tien-tsin might greatly add to our future difficulties.

If the instructions from my Government received by the next Mail are such as to enable me to arrange satisfactorily with the British Admiral as to the disposal of Her Majesty's Ships in China, it is my purpose to proceed to Shanghae, and I shall with the utmost unreserve rediscuss with Your Excellency the various topics connected with our common interests in these regions. It may also be hoped that the Imperial Government of France will have been enabled to give some attention to these important matters, & we may be able better to ascertain whether any, and what amount, of cooperation is to be expected from the French Legation

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obed.t

humble Servant.

(Signed) John Bowring

1.

1.

His Excellency.

Dr Peter Parker

U. S. Commissioner & Minister

Plenipotentiary to China

Despatch No 23. Exhibit 1.

2nd Sept. 1856.

(Copy.)

Légation de France en Chine.

Macao. le 7 Juillet 1856.

Monsieur le Ministre,

J'ai reçu la dépêche que Vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire à la date des 3 courant et m'empresse de Vous remercier des informations que Vous avez bien voulu m'y transmettre. Dans le cas où le Gouvernement de S. M. Impériale m'inviterait à agir de concert avec Votre Excellence pour obtenir la révision des traités actuellement en vigueur, Elle ne saurait douter, d'après les entretiens que j'ai eus avec elle, de la satisfaction que j'éprouverais à me trouver en mesure de lui prêter, pour cet objet commun, mon active coopération.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Ministre, l'assurance de la haute considération avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être

De Votre Excellence,

Le très humble et

très obéissant Serviteur,

(Signed) Bt. de Courcy

Son Excellence Monsieur le Dr. Peter Parker, Commissaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire des Etats-Unis d'Amérique en Chine.

Lar

Translation. Legation of France in China

Macao 7th July 1856.

Sir

I have received the despatch you did me the honor to write to me on the 3rd inst. I beg to thank you for the information you have been good enough to give me therein.

In case H. I. Majesty's Government would invite me to act in concert with Your Excellency in order to obtain the revision of the actually existing treaties. Your Excellency should not doubt, after the interviews which took place between us of the satisfaction I would experience in finding myself able to afford you, for this common object, my active cooperation.

I am, Sir,

Your Excellency's

Very Humble & Very Obed. Servt

(Signed.) Ct. de Lagrené.

To.

His Excellency.

Dr. Peter Parker

Commissioner & Minister Plenipotentiary

of the United States. China

Despatch No 23. Exhibit 1.c

2nd Sept. 1856.

(Copy.) Legation of the United States.

Shang Hae. 12th August 1856.

Sir,

On my arrival at Shang Hae on the 1st inst. I had the honor to receive Your Excellency's valued despatch of the 1st ult.

The wisdom & experience which characterize the sentiments therein conveyed. have not failed to leave their due impression upon my mind. and if in the sequel I fail to adopt them it will not be from choice. The absolute necessity of the display of a becoming Naval Armament to support Diplomatic Authority has never for a moment been lost sight of in all my communications with my Government. & I believe it is providential, rather than intentional, that I find myself destitute of it.

My embarrassment was extreme, on learning upon my arrival at this port, the accident to the U. S. S. Frigate "San Jacinto" which I had expected to be at Shang Hae by this date instead of a month hence.

His Excellency.

Sir John Bowring L. L. D.

Her Britannic Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary

&c. China &c &c &c

Such

Such is the dilemma in which I find myself placed that I have seriously contemplated abandoning my expedition to the North for the present season, returning at once to the South.- but have now determined to remain another month, trusting new light may illumine my path, which at present is dark in the extreme.

The Imperial Commissioner in the South has been notified of the purpose of the United States Government to seek a revision of the existing Treaty the present year. Communications to the same effect, from the President of the United States to the Emperor of China, have already been transmitted through His Excellency the Vice Roy of the Min & Chih Provinces, and before this have probably reached their destination. Now to fail to advance in accordance with these intimations, without sufficient cause, will be to compromise the character of my Government in the estimation of that of China.-

But there are other considerations which forbid that the present season should be suffered to pass without an attempt to approach Peking on the part of at least one of the three Western Powers.-

That

That the Ta Tsing Rulers now feel in an unprecedented degree the extremities to which the internal movement has reduced them admits not a doubt. I have evidence conclusive that they are already contemplating the expediency of seeking foreign aid against their domestic foe. but in a manner peculiarly Chinese. Were the Ministers of Great Britain. France, & the United States. now in readiness to present themselves at Peking. I am confident most important consequences might follow. Convinced that they appear in the character of true friends to the reigning Dynasty the Emperor & Cabinet may be delighted to receive directly & openly what is now sought covertly.

I need not assure Your Excellency with what delight I shall hail the event, if the next Mail should bring the desired instructions & Authority from Her Majesty's Government. & from the Imperial Government of France.

I have the honor to be Sir

Your most obedient

Humble servant.

(Signed) Peter Parker

Despatch No. 29. Exhibit 1.

2nd Sept. 1856.

/Copy./

No. 129.

Superintendency of Trade.

Hong Kong. 10th June 1856.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward to Your Excellency an Official copy of the ratified Treaty between Her Britannic Majesty & the Sovereigns of Siam. —

I have the honor to be,

Sir

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient

Humble Servant

(Signed.) John Bowring.

To His Excellency

Dr Parker

U. S. Commissioner in China

— — —

Macao

Despatch No. 23. Exhibit I. J.

2nd Sept. 1856.

Legation of the United States.

Macao. 11th June 1856.

Sir,

I have great satisfaction in acknowledging receipt of Your Excellency's favor of the 10th instant transmitting this Legation an official copy of the ratified Treaty between Her Britanic Majesty and the Sovereigns of Siam, of which Your Excellency was the able and succesful negociator. A treaty highly honorable to an Oriental Kingdom & most advantageous to both the contracting Powers.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient Humble Servant

(Signed) Peter Parker.

His Excellency,

Sir John Bowring, L. L. D.

Her Britanic Majesty's Commissioner in China.

&c &c &c

Hong Kong.

Despatch No. 23 - Exhibit 2nd

2nd Sept. 1856

Copy

U. S. Flag-Ship "San Jacinto"
Hong Kong. 13th June 1856.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your very kind letter of the 12th May.

It would give me very great pleasure to see you at Hong Kong, where the "San Jacinto" will be detained some three weeks, for the repairs of her machinery & to take provisions & stores on board. So soon as this is done I shall proceed with our Consul General, Townsend Harris Esqre to Simoda, Japan.

From my Instructions I may be obliged to make a stop there of some ten or twelve days, after that duty is performed, which is imperative, I shall be very much at your service.

I found the U. S. Ship "Levant" here on my arrival, but not ready for service. She will be so in a few days, so soon as she is, if you desire it, I will order her Commander to proceed to Macao for your accommodation.

Please

Please let me know your wishes on the subject at your earliest convenience.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Very Respectfully
Your obed. Servt.
(Signed) Jas Armstrong
Comdg. U.S. Naval Forces
East India & China Seas

To
His Excellency
Peter Parker.
U.S. Commissioner to China
Macao.

(true copy.)
Thos Reynolds.

Despatch No 23. Exhibit 2 b

2nd Sept 1856

Copy. Legation of the United States.
Hong Kong. 27th June 1856

Sir,

As you are aware the original of your favor of the 13th inst. replying to mine of the 12th ult failed to reach its destination, & the duplicate with which you have obliged me since my arrival in this colony, by mutual understanding I have deferred acknowledging till the arrival of the Mail should render my course more clear.

In our several interviews the duties with which I am charged the expectations entertained by the Government at Washington & unforeseen causes and events which have occurred, surrounding me with serious embarassments, have been frankly & fully stated & need not here be repeated.

Commodore James Armstrong
Commander in Chief of U. S. Naval Forces
in the East &c &c &c
U. S. Flag Ship "San Jacinto"
Hong Kong

In

In view of the paramount interests of our Government depending upon the Revision of the Treaty which falls due on the 3rd proximo. I am confident the different Departments of the Government at Washington, had they foreseen the delay in the execution of your Instructions as to the disposal of the Naval forces of the United States in the East, which has providentially occurred, they had been so modified as to have given you a discretionary Power in regard to them. But I learn from the Despatch before me, as well as from the Instructions with which you have acquainted me, this is not the case.

It is the province of practical men, rather than to indulge in unavailing regrets, at untoward events and circumstances, to cast about & make the most of such means as they find at their command.

It was my wish and purpose had the means been available to me, soon after my arrival in China to visit the Northern Ports prior to entering upon negociations for the Revision of the Treaty,

but they were not. It is still desirable even at this late period, to visit these Ports and I shall have much pleasure in accepting your offer to accommodate me with the U.S. Ship "Levant"

In consequence of my recent indisposition a few days more will be required to attend to indispensible public duties here in the South, but by the 30th inst or 1st proximo I hope to be ready to embark.

Should circumstances favor, it may be desirable to visit <u>enroute</u> to Shanghae, - Swatow, this side of Amoy, & Kiwan-Chow, - between Fuh Chow & Ningpo, & propably other Ports.

There remain several topics upon which I must avail myself of another opportunity to address you, & for the present will only add the expression of my high appreciation of your acquaintance, & the disposition you have manifested, cordially to cooperate, with the means at your disposal, to promote the great interests of our Government in China, at this critical period.

I have the honor to be,

Sir

Sir

Very Respectfully

Your obed.t Serv.t

(Signed) Peter Parker

Despatch 23 Exhibit 2.c

2 Sept. 1856.

Copy.

U. S. Flag. Ship "San Jacinto"
Hong Kong. 27th June 1856.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this days date

Very Respectfully
Your obed. Serd.
(Signed) Jas Armstrong.
Comdg. U. S. Naval Forces.
East India & China Seas.

His Excellency.
Peter Parker.
U. S. Commissioner
to China.

Despatch 23. Exhibit 2.

2nd Sept 1856.

(Copy.)

U. S. Flag Ship "San Jacinto"
Hong Kong. 28th June 1856.

Sir.

When the U. S. Ship "Levant" under your command, shall be, in all respects, ready, you will afford to His Excellency Peter Parker, our Commissioner to China, & Suite a Conveyance to Shanghae touching at such intermediate Ports as he may desire to visit.

I shall join you at Shanghae as soon as early a day as practicable, where you will please await my arrival.

Wishing you a pleasant passage

I am,

Very Respectfully
Your obed. Servt.
(Signed) Jas Armstrong
Comdg. U. S. Naval Forces
East India & China Seas.

Commander William Smith
Comdg. U. S. Ship "Levant"

Despatch No 23. Exhibit 2.

2 Sept. 1856.

U. S. Legation
U. S. Ship "Levant."
Woosung. 31st. July 1856.

Sir.

Since coming to anchor in this river I learn that the U. S. Steam Frigate "San Jacinto" has sustained injury in her machinery which may require detention for repairs in the South of China. This intelligence gives me extreme solicitude. The wish of the U.S. Government to revise its treaty with China has been duly announced to the Imperial Commissioner at Canton. The letters of the President to the Emperor of China, relative to the Revision are probably now in Peking. It was my wish at a date not later than the 1st. Sept. to proceed to the Gulf of Pih-Che-le. for that important object. I avail myself of a moment before the P. & O.

To,
Commodore James Armstrong.
Commander in Chief of U. S. Naval forces
East India & China Seas
U. S. S. Frigate "San Jacinto"
Hong Kong.

Steamer

Steamer leaves to address you, & to request you kindly to inform me at what time I may now hope the "San Jacinto" may be available for that object. I also request if able to designate a time, you will oblige me by informing the English & French Legations in China of your answer to this inquiry.

I shall avail myself of an early opportunity of writing you more leisurely & fully from Shanghai.

With sentiments of high regard.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most obed.t Serv.t

(Signed) Peter Parker

Despatch No 23. Exhibit 2 f.

2 Sept 1856.

(Copy) Legation of the United States.
Shang hae 12th Augt 1856.

Sir,

On the 31st ult I had the honor of addressing you a brief note from Woosung. In view of the possibility you may not have left for Japan, as then intimated, I now embrace the earliest opportunity of writing you more fully, in reference to my plans and wishes, as respects your cooperation in carrying out the important interests of our Government.

Referring you to my note of the 31st ult I proceed to add that the Government of the United States is compromised to that of China to execute its purpose of seeking a revision of the Treaty of 1844 the present year. In order to do this most successfully, I must rely upon you to afford me all the aid in your power. The U. S. Vessels "San Jacinto" "Levant" & "Portsmouth" are the least number of ships desirable for the occasion.

To proceed to the Gulf of Pe Chi Le with a single Sloop of war would be to invite defeat of the important objects in view.

Commodore James Armstrong
Commander in Chief U. S. Naval forces. East Indies & China Seas.
U. S. S. Frigate "San Jacinto"
Whampoa

Permit me then to entertain the hope that you will at the earliest moment practicable join me at this port where I anxiously wait your arrival. & if in consequence of your unexpected detention in the South, time is afforded for you to be joined by the "Portsmouth" at Shanghae in time for her to accompany you to the Peiho, it will be a most fortunate circumstance.

Important facts have come to my knowledge, which indicate the present season should not be allowed to pass without an attempt to revise our treaty & as near to Peking as practicable, & the earlier this is effected the more favorable will be the season, the greater the chances of success.

Trusting, Sir, that you will readily appreciate the causes of my importunity, (the honor of our Government is pledged,) and with a strong desire that it may meet your approval that the "Portsmouth" proceed hither immediately on her arrival in China, & that at an early date I may welcome you here from Japan.

I remain, Sir,

Very Respectfully

Your Obed.t Serv.t

(Signed.) Peter Parker.

Despatch 23 Exhibit 2-J.
2nd Sept. 1856

U. S. Flag-Ship 'San Jacinto'
Hong Kong.- 11th Augt 1856.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 31st July from Woosung.-

The 'San Jacinto' arrived at this port yesterday from Whampoa, where she was docked. I leave here for Japan this evening or tomorrow morning. My stay there will be as short as I can possibly make it. I shall reach Shang Hae with all practicable despatch. You can calculate the time, quite as correctly as I can, of my arrival, say about the 10th September.-

I have communicated your request to Sir John Bowring & the Count de Coucy.-

I am, Sir,

Very Respectfully
Your obed. Servt.
(Signed.) Jas Armstrong.
Comdg U.S. Naval Forces
East India & China Seas

His Excellency
Peter Parker
U. S. Commissioner to China
Shang Hae

true Copy.
Thos. Reynolds

Despatch No 28 Exhibit 3a

2 Sept 1856.

(Copy.)

Canton 28th July 1856.

H. E. Peter Parker.

&c &c &c.

Dear Sir.

The enclosed translation of a reply received from H. E. Yeh Governor General of the Province, was sent down to Hong Kong on the 1st inst. reached there after you had left in the Levant I now send it to you at Shang Hae. but do not yet send the riginal, which will be in time. I suppose, if I bring it. I have already informed you of the delay of the "San Jacinto" she is yet undergoing repairs, nor do I learn how soon she will sail. I infer from your last note, that if I reach Shang Hae as soon as she does, it is as soon as is necessary.

Respectfully Yours.

(Signed) S Wells Williams

Despatch No. 23. Exhibit 3 to
2nd Sept. 1856.

Yeh. by Imperial appointment. Governor General of the Liang Kwang. cabinet Minister hereditary baron. &c &c. hereby replies.

On the 26th of May I received your communication of the 2nd May in which you remark:- "I have examined the 34th Article of the Treaty between the United States & China in which there is a stipulation that after the expiration of twelve years, the two Governments will treat amicably concerning the same by means of suitable persons appointed for that object. This period will expire on the 3rd of July of the present year, & I wish, according to the provisions of this article, to deliberate again upon the Treaty."-

I find that in the (24th) 12th year of Taukwang, the former Minister Kiying discussed & agreed upon the terms of the Treaty with the American Envoy, Cushing, at which time it was stipulated that after the expiration of twelve years there should be renewed consultation on those articles. However, before this appointed time had arrived, American Ships went to Tien Tsin in 1854 for the purpose of making known this, at which time His Imperial Majesty issued an order refusing the request,

as

as your Government had not acted conformably to the provisions of the Treaty. Still more, then would it be presumptuous for me to act contrary to His Majesty's orders. -

The communications which has now been received shall in due course be made known at Court: but as to your intention to visit the several ports & then proceed to Peking. (I may say) that as Mr. Mc. Lane has already been to Tien tsin in 1854, when he received a direct refusal from the Court to proceed thither, it will be still more useless now than then, & will be just as well not to take the trouble of going -

When sending this reply, I improve the opportunity to wish you every happiness & tranquility.

To His Excellency:
Peter Parker
Commissioner of the U. S. A. in China

30th June 1854 - 5th no. 28th day of the Jung's 6th year

Despatch No 23 Exhibit 3.c

2 Sept. 1856.

(Copy) Legation of the United States.

Shanghae 8th August 1856

Sir.

Since my arrival at this port on the 1st inst. I have had the honor to be in receipt of Your Excellency's despatch of the 30th June in reply to mine of the 2nd May stating "that Your Excellency finds that in the 24th year of Tau-Kwang the former Minister Kiying discussed & agreed upon the terms of the treaty with the American Envoy Cushing, at which time it was stipulated that after the expiration of twelve years there should be renewed consultations on those Articles. However, before this appointed time had arrived, American Ships went to Tien Tsin in 1854 for the purpose of making known this at which time His Imperial Majesty issued an order refusing the request as my Government had not acted conformably to the provisions of the treaty &c."

This coming before me the Minister I feel myself bound in vindication of my Government against so grave a charge as that of non-conformity to the Treaty, to inform Your Excellency, I had the honor to accompany that expedition to Tien Tsin Hoa Kow in 1854 and in my

instructions

instructions from Mr. Mc Lane, when I left the Steam Frigate Powhatan in the Gulf of Pe-chi-le to proceed to Tien Tsin to make the necessary arrangements for visiting Peking. His Excellency stated "you will observe my determination to seek the Imperial Commissioner at Peking was formed prior to the presen-tation of the claim by the British Minister for a revision of the Treaty between China & Great Britain, & resulted from the refusal of Commissioner Yeh to meet me in April at Canton; & the inability or unwillingness of other Imperial Officers to confer with me concerning foreign affairs, whether of a Commercial or personal character; & this determination was made known in June to the Vice Roy of the Leang Keang Provinces & by him to the Imperial Authorities at Peking. Subsequently to this I received instructions from the Government of the U. States to give the British Minister all the aid in my power, in his efforts to revise the British Treaty, but I am unwilling to seek the Imperial Authorities without the principal object of my mission being well presented & understood &c. - Conformably to these Instructions I did not fail to explain distinctly & clearly this fact to Their

Excellencies

Excellencies. Wan, Ichwang, & Ouen. Thus it is manifest that my Government has not failed to conform to the treaty by seeking to revise it before the time appointed. & that the primary object of the visit to Tien Tsin in 1854. so far as the Government of the U. S. was concerned was to present grievances to the Emperor, for which redress had been sought in vain elsewhere. On that occasion H. E. Wan from Da Kes Memorialized the Throne requesting the Emperor to appoint a Commissioner, & as I was informed H. E. stated to the Emperor that there were grievances of a serious character which could not be redressed elsewhere, as proved by the Envoy's coming so far to appeal to His Majesty; thence the Emperors readiness to appoint a Commissioner to meet them &c.

I have the honor to remain, Sir,

Your Excellency's

Obedient Servant

Commissioner & Minister

Plenipotentiary of the U. S. A. in China

Do.

His Excellency Yeh

Imperial High Commissioner

& & &

Canton

True copy—

Thos. J. Reynolds

Despatch No 23. Exhibit 3d.

2 Sept. 1856.

Copy. Legation of the U. States.
Shang Hae. 12 Augt. 1856.

Dear Sir.

Your favor of the 28th ult. & a translation of the Despatch of H. E. Yeh came duly to hand on the 4th inst.

I regret to say your inference from my express desire that you should join me by the first opportunity after the arrival of the July Mail, that if you reach Shang Hae as soon as the "San Jacinto" it will be as ~~soon~~ as necessary is quite erroneous. - I wished you to precede her there to attend to translations of sundry documents, requiring care & time, before leaving this Port. I have therefore to renew the request that you will come to Shang Hae direct by the earliest opportunity. Your absence has embarrassed me not a little, & necessarily modified my plans.

Yours Truly.
(Signed) Peter Parker

S. Wells Williams LL.D.
Secy. of Legation
&c. &c. &c.

Despatch No 23 - Exhibit 3c

2 Sept 1856.

Copy.

U. S. Legation.
Hong Kong 30th June 1856.

O. H. Perry Esqre
U. S. Consul.
Canton.

Sir.

I proceed in the morning in the U. S. Ship 'Levant' for the Northern Ports. Any communications you may have occasion to address me, please direct to the care of M. W. Fish Esqre U. S. Consul Shanghai.

I shall be obliged by your keeping me informed of whatever of a public nature transpires in the South.

Very Respectfully
Your obed. Servt.
(Signed) Peter Parker

5

Despatch No 23. Exhibit 3f.

2 Sept. 1856.

(Copy.)

U. S. Ship "Levant"
Hong Kong. 1 July 1856.

Sir.

Your favor of the 27th by Leong A. has been duly received.

I proceed this morning for the Northern Ports. I have but a moment to write & convey to you my wish that you join me at Shang Hae by the first opportunity after the arrival of the Mail, expected on or about the 24th inst.

Commodore Jas Armstrong expects to be at Shang Hae by the 10th Augt. It is my wish to proceed to the Gulf of Pih-Chi-le as soon after as may be practicable with a view to the opening of negociations for the revision of treaties.

Yours truly.
(Signed) Peter Parker.

S. W. Williams Esq
Secretary of Legation &
Chinese Interpreter
Canton

Despatch No. 23. Exhibit 39.

2 Sept. 1856.

Vià Marseilles.

SHANGHAE, *4th September*, 1856.

DEAR SIRS,

OUR last Circular advices were under date of the 29th of July, since when no change of importance has taken place.

Imports continue in steady though moderate demand at prices corresponding to the rates of Exchange. Receipts of Teas unprecedently small, most of the usual supply of Congous being turned to Foochow by the exactions of the Mandarins on the routes to this port, the disarrangement to trade caused by the currency and other causes, while Greens are detained by the want of water in the creeks and canals, the drought this summer having been severe.

The Tae-ping-wong rebels have advanced their lines from Nankin and the Yang-tsze-keang generally, towards Soochow and Hangchow. The Imperialist camps before Nankin and Chinkeang are broken up, and the general rumour is that Soochow and Hangchow will be taken when the creeks fill and cold weather comes on. Soochow is the great centre of commerce and wealth for these two provinces, while Hangchow, scarcely inferior in importance, is directly in the route from the Green Tea districts to this port. The fall of the two cities would greatly affect us, whether for good or evil depends upon the disposition of the insurgents, the extent of their sovereignty, and their ability to maintain it. Should they hold all the central provinces, including the Tea and Silk districts and establish a permanent dominion, trade generally would be greatly benefitted. Public sentiment both among Chinese and foreigners, has turned lately rather in favour of the insurgents.

Imports.

GREY SHIRTINGS.—Sales are 102,000 pieces with very little change—5¾ catties, $1.18; 6 catties, $1.28; 6¼ catties, $1.38; 7 catties, $1.50; 7¼ catties, $1.70; 7½ catties, $1.80.

WHITE SHIRTINGS.—Sales 5,200 pieces—No. 1, $1.80; No. 2, $1.60; No. 3, $1.40.

AMERICAN GOODS.—*Drills.*—From the *Florence* and *Haidee*, sales have been 20,600 pieces at $2.40 *a* $2.35, leaving in stock 25,000 pieces. To-day's quotations $2.20 *a* $2.25; 30 yards $1.65. The demand is not equal to the supply for the moment, but we hope for an improvement.

Sheetings.—Sales light 5,000 pieces at $2.05 and a demand; heavy quoted $2.25.

Jeans.—None here, quoted $2.75 *a* $2.05 for 40 *a* 30 yards.

WOOLLENS.—*Spanish Stripes.*—No. 1, 83 cents; No. 2, 73 cents. Sales 530 pieces.

Long Ells.—No. 1, $5.50; No. 2, $5.20. Sales 280 pieces.

LEAD.—No sales at $5.80 the quotation. Stock 1,000 peculs.

Exports.

TEAS.—*Congous.*—We are still without supplies of new Teas, though musters of 30 chops have been shown. Of old Teas, 20 chops or about 12,500 chests have been settled at 9 *a* 11¼ taels for Ningchow, and 14 taels for Kaisow; leaving 20,000 chests in stock.

Last year receipts of new Tea were Hopack, Ningchow, and Kaisow, 88 chops. Sales 52 chops.

Common Congou,	73	„	„	41	„
In all	161	„		93	„

Souchong.—Sales of new 618 chests at 16 *a* 17 taels.

Pekoe.—Sales of new 700 chests at 15 taels.

Greens.—The receipts are mostly Pingsuy with a few Fychow, making in all 35,000 half-chests, of which 9,800 have been settled since 1st July, all for England at 10 per cent below last year's rates, say 14 *a* 15 taels for cargo Young Hyson. The market for America is not opened. The crop is believed to be about equal to last year's and will cost the Teamen about the same. It will go forward late.

Of old Greens, settlements are 5,000 half-chests at 12 *a* 14 taels for Young Hyson, and 15 *a* 17 taels for Imperial and Gunpowder; leaving 10 *a* 15,000 half-chests in stock.

Receipts of new Tea are 35,000 half-chests, leaving 25,000 in stock.

At the same time in	1853	receipts of new were	110,000	half-chests.	Settlements		75,000
	1854	„ „ „	200,000	„	„		120,000
	1855	„ „ „	56,000	„	„		9,500
	1856	„ „ „	35,000	„	„	new 9,800	
					„	old 7,700	17,500

In statistics for 1853, 1854, and 1855, settlements of old Tea were not included.

RAW SILK.—The very flattering accounts received by last Mail caused an active business during the month at advanced prices, and the settlements for the first two months of the season amount to nearly two-thirds the whole Export of last year. They are estimated at 35,000 bales, and the Exports are 21,169 bales, including the cargo of the *Challenger* (5,834 bales,) now ready to sail again, after having returned for repair of damages sustained by getting on shore in the river. Several vessels will sail shortly after the departure of the Mail, and the cargoes are estimated as follows,—*Anglo Saxon*, 1,800 bales; *Mimosa*, 1,000 bales; *Stornoway*, 4,000 bales; and *Annamooka*, 1,000 bales.

This steamer takes only about 600 bales for Hongkong, and none for Overland direct.

The dealers estimate the crop available for Export the whole season at 60 *a* 65,000 bales, but their predictions have so often proved false, that we place no reliance upon the present, and do not hazard an opinion as to whether it will be larger or smaller. The quantity must in a great measure depend upon the prices, foreigners are prepared to pay. Unsold stock in Shanghae is from 2,500 *a* 3,000 bales. Throwns of good quality and fine Taysaams continue very scarce, and are much enquired for. We quote,—

Tsatlee,—No. 1 & 2, $325 *a* $330; No. 3, $290 *a* $295; No. 4, $275 *a* $280; No. 5, $260 *a* $265.
Taysaam,—No. 1, $255 *a* $260; No. 2, $240 *a* $245; No. 3, $220 *a* $225; No. 4, $205 *a* $210.
Kah-hing Taysaam,—No. 1, $270 nominal; No. 2, $250; No. 3, $225 *a* $230.
Yuenfa,—No. 1, $290 *a* $295 nominal; No. 2, $270 *a* $275; No. 3, $250 *a* $255.
Leih-yang,—No. 1 & 2, $280 *a* $920.
Shoo-hing long reel Taysaam,—No. 1, $220 *a* $225; No. 2, $210 *a* 215.
Throwns,—$280 *a* $290.

SILK PIECE GOODS.—Contracts can be made at 19¼ cents. We hear of none of importance.

24 Nov. 56.

Legation of the United States.
Shanghae 5th Sept. 1856.

No. 24

His Excellency.
William L. Marcy.
Secretary of State of the United States.
Washington.

Sir.

Since the date of my despatch of the 2nd inst. I have received a communication from His Excellency Wang. Vice Roy of Min & Chih, conveying an extract from a letter he had received from the Ministers of the Privy Council & returning the Presidents Letters to the Emperor. which His Excellency in strict conformity to the letter of the Treaty had obligingly transmitted. (Exhibit A.)

The Sandal wood box containing the Presidents Letters & translations, bears evidence of its having made the journey to the Capital, & that it had been in the hands of the Ministers of the Privy Council & its contents read & understood by them, I have no doubt, & probably copies retained. I must not omit to state the original Letters have

both

both been opened!-

In the face of the Treaty, the Privy Council descend to the falsehood of stating to His Excellency that the subject does not belong to him to superintend, & indicate Yëë. the Imperial Commissioner at Canton, as the proper personage to memorialize His Imperial Majesty upon the subject. It is not improbable the Mail howley expected from the South, will bring me a despatch from His Excellency Yëë respecting the result of his own reference to Pekin, mentioned in his despatch of 30th June.-

The action of the Privy Council in this matter clearly indicates their determination to adhere to the immemorial policy of keeping foreign governments as distant as possible from the Capital. It is also significant of the influence of His Excellency Yëë, who is believed to be the most popular & powerful Minister in the Empire.

The opening & returning of the Presidents Letters are a new item in our long list of grievances, a fresh indignity to the Sovereignity of the United States, & one more argument, would that it were the final one, that the past & present policy of the Manchows towards Americans as well as all foreign nations, can & shall be endured no longer. Before the return

of

of the 'San Jacinto' still further indications of the disposition of this Government may be received prior to finally deciding my course, on the arrival of Commodore Armstrong, I shall consider maturely my Instructions & all the circumstances, in view of which I am to act.

Despatches from our Consul at Foo Chow, inform me, notwithstanding instructions to the contrary, he had felt himself compelled to stop the payment of Duties on several vessels, till the local Authorities had performed their duty & fulfilled their promises in relation to the murder of an American Citizen. By the same post the Vice Roy informs me, that one of the murderers, had been arrested, who had confessed to having "stabbed & mortally wounded" the United States Citizen & that stringent orders had been given for his speedy trial & punishment.

The early departure of this Mail induces me to defer the transmission of the correspondence relating to that subject.

With sentiments of high consideration, I have the honor to remain, Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most obed.t Serv.t

Peter Parker

Despatch No 24 Exhibit A.

5th Sept. 1856

Wang E Tih by Imperial Appointment a President of the Board of War. Vice President of the Colonial Board. member of the Board of Imperial Censors. Governor General of the Fuh Kien & Chih Keang. Superintendent of the affairs of the Army & Commissariat of the Ta Tsing Empire has the honor to make this communication.

On the 15th July I received from Your Excellency a National Letter, & Letter of Credence, one box, containing in all (the two translations included) four Articles & I the Vice-Roy, upon the 18th July, by Government Post with great speed, sent them with a Memorial to the Emperor. I have now received a letter from the Ministers of the Privy Council (at Peking) stating. "As to this matter "it is right it should revert to the "Imperial Commissioner & Governor General "of the Leeang Kwang Provinces (Canton "& Kwang Si.) duly to Memorialize the "Throne & to manage, & not being a "subject which ought to be superintended "by the Vice-Roy of the Min & Chih Provinces. "it is inexpedient for us (the Ministers "of the Privy Council) to present it in "his behalf. — We now take the original

bof

"box & return it (to ~~you~~ the Vice Roy.) to
"deliver over which will answer."

It is for this purpose I now address you & take the original box & send it back simply trusting that you will examine & receive it. As requisite I make this communication.

N. B. Articles returned: the original National Letter & Letter of Credence, one box containing altogether four Articles.

To His Excellency.
Peter Parker.
Commissioner & Minister Plenipotentiary
of the U. S. A. to China.

Hsien Fung. 6th year. 7th month. 24th day.
(24th August 1856)

true Copy.
Thos. Reynolds

Rec'd 2nd Jany. Mr Dunlap

Legation of the United States.

No. 25. Shang hae. 6th October 1856.

His Excellency,

Wm L. Marcy,

Secretary of State of the United States.

Washington.

Sir

Respectfully referring you to my despatches Nos 23 & 24 of the 2nd & 5th ult. I have now to inform you what has since transpired in relation to the Revision of the Treaty.

Commodore James Armstrong returned to this port from Japan on the 13th ult. He informs me the "San Jacinto" is in a "crippled condition" & unfit for the service required. That in the event of grounding she has not a boat to carry out an anchor, or of being obliged to abandon her, has not boats sufficient to take off her crew.

Whilst in this dilemma, the local authorities (His Excellency Lan, Acting, & Woo, late, Intendant) under the belief that I was soon to proceed North have sought me, asked my counsel, & manifested a sincerity & earnestness seldom exhibited by Chinese Officers. In a spirit of frankness & sincerity I have met them. The first proposition on

their

their part was to convey my sentiments to Elesing the Vice Roy that he might in a memorial communicate them in advance, as my introduction on arriving at Peking.—

At the interview of the 23d ult on board the "San Jacinto"— I submitted as my own proposition, that I would receive an Imperial Commissioner at Shanghae, invested with full powers to revise the Treaty & redress grievances, on condition that he came authorized to grant the residence of the United States Minister at Peking. To this they have so far consented as to Petition the Vice Roy & by public & official despatches to request the appointment of an Imperial Commissioner, to meet me at Shanghae, & through private letters to make known to the Cabinet Ministers that it is only with the understanding that he be authorized to grant the residence of U. S. Minister at the Imperial Court, that I consent to negociate at Shanghae. The opinion has been expressed that His Majesty the Emperor, seeing the Russians are already at the capital, will be willing to grant it. & the name of Keying has been mentioned as the personage likely to be appointed to Revise the Treaty, which he negociated, than whom a better choice perhaps could not be made.—

My acquaintance with Chinese

Character

& diplomacy extends through too many years to allow me to be over sanguine of the realization of their promises.

By the present arrangement there is nothing to be lost. To go to Peking this Autumn under circumstances calculated to secure success is now out of the question. If the aim of the Chinese is to thwart that object they will be disappointed. - If they are acting in good faith, something important may be secured, & before the 4th March next I may have the high satisfaction of forwarding a Treaty to the President, & of evincing that his confidence has not been misplaced or unappreciated. -

Should His Excellency Keang decline to memorialize the Emperor, I shall know it in a few days, & in that case shall probably return at an early day to the South. If he does & without success, I shall then be extricated from any embarassment in not being able to carry out the intention notified to this Government of proceeding to the North this season, as it will appear to the Chinese officials the time for so doing has been occupied by them in the present arrangement, & the propositions of the United States Government will be strengthened, when next year it shall be ready to present its demands at the Imperial Court

Inviting your attention to the enclosed exhibits Nos 1 a 11 in which full details will be found of the steps adopted with the local Authorities

with

with whom I have declined official correspondence (except my note of the 29th ult. to the Vice Roy.) making my communications, when not in person, through the Secretary of Legation & Private Chinese Secretary.-

I have the honor to remain, with sentiments of high consideration,

Your Excellency's

Most Obed. Servt.

Peter Parker

Despatch No 25. Exhibit 1.

6th Oct. 1856

Memoranda of a conversation between their Excellencies Peter Parker. Commissioner of the United States & Woo, late Intendent of Circuit. at the Legation of the United States Shanghae. 15th Sept. 1856.

This call was made at the instance of Woo who expressed a desire for some private conversation on the state of public affairs. Dr. Parker requested him to wait till Commodore Armstrong & other gentlemen who happened to be present should retire.

On being left to themselves & the doors closed. Woo commenced by observing that the state of trade was very sad & the Rebels have become so furious, I do not know what will be our condition six months hence. The Rebels are now spread throughout this province & seeing the great sufferings of my fellow-countrymen desire Your Excellency to instruct me what is best to be done to suppress the Rebels, to tranquillize the people & restore trade to a proper state.

Dr. Parker replied: that the condition of China is indeed deplorable, & that the interests of Foreigners are very much affected by it. Look at the fleet of fine Merchant vessels in the port, unable to obtain freights. This is attributable not solely to the Rebellion, but the state of the Currency also has its influence.

Woo

Now there are several things I wish to state to you distinctly & which I wish you to understand & remember. — I speak as a friend & in all sincerity.

First ____ The only salvation for this Dynasty is laying aside its old policy of seclusion & of treating foreigners as barbarians & foes, & for China to receive the three Great Western Powers as friends & equals. treating them as they treat each other with reciprocal confidence & respect, & to allow their Ministers to reside at Court as is done in other great Countries.

If this had been done from the time the three treaties were negociated, China had not been in its present state! By the friendly council of these powers the rebellion had been suppressed in its bud. Now let it be known to all the Malcontents, that England, France, & America unitedly give their support & sympathies to the Manchow Government, & they will see a Power it is vain for them to oppose, & the vacilating will become established in their adherance to the old Government.

Second. ____ When in Washington the policy to be pursued by the United States towards China was maturely considered by the President & his Cabinet Ministers, & according to his instructions he is to know in his Diplomatic capacity no Government but that of the Emperor of China. —

When

When in London & Paris he had interviews with the Foreign Secretary's of England & France. & in explaining to them the views & policy of his Government, they each acceded to them their unqualified approval: & when he remarked to the Earl of Clarendon, that were he a Chinese, & the truest patriot in the Empire he could desire nothing better for his country than is now proposed by America. His Lordship responded "not only do our consciences, but the whole world must approve our course."

Third. ——— But alas! said Dr Parker on my arrival in China the Imperial Commissioner Yeë refused to meet me, but I have informed him of the desire of my Government to revise the treaty, & to seek redress of its grievances, & that I should proceed to the Northern Ports, & thence to Peking for those objects: & his Excellency has stated that he would make the same known at Court.

Now though uncertain when I shall depart for the North, I expect to go alone, & not in company with the English & French Ministers. I do not wait, for as this is the year according to the Treaty of Wanghia, for its revision.

If His Majesty will receive me, & grant the residence of the U. S. Minister at Peking, then

all

all other things can be easily settled & the permanency of the great Pure Dynasty may be secured. There must be no trifling, no foolery about the Kow tow &c. I will pay to the Emperor the same respect as to the President of the U. S. or to the great Sovereigns of Europe. When a man is drowning it is not so important by which hand he is rescued, as it is that he be extricated. & so of China. — ~~Let~~ good is the end to be sought as the first object. —

Should His Majesty decline all these overtures of friendship, on the part of Western Nations, then it will be difficult to predict the future. and should Tae Ping Wang hereafter communicate to the Foreign Ministers his readiness to enter into Treaty with them, & they should accede to his propositions, the Emperor could not complain!" "I have already suggested this to Eleang" interrupted the Intendent.

Who listened with the most fixed attention to every sentiment, & said frankly "I sincerely believe all you say is true. & I am exceedingly obliged." & deprecating the general selfishness of the officers of Government, that they cared only for themselves & not for their Country (in which respect he was an exception,) asked if he

might

might take Dr. Parker's words & in a petition convey them to Keang the Vice Roy, that His Excellency address the Court at Peking, by way of introducing him this object on his arrival there? Dr. Parker replied "You may make what use you please of the facts & state to you in your communications with the Vice Roy."

May I come again in a few days with Lan (the Acting Taotae), & will you repeat to him what you have now said to me? Ans. "I will reflect upon that & inform you". In the course of the conversation, the opening of the President's letter was alluded to, as a grave offence, & the impropriety of a reception of a foreign Minister in a Tent at Takoo was illustrated, by supposing an Imperial Commission to the U. S. being received at the Mouth of the Potomac instead of Washington.

Despatch No. 25 - Exhibit No. 1.

6th Oct. 1856.

Minutes of a conversation held on board the U. S. Steamer 'San Jacento' on the 23rd Sept. 1856. between His Excellency Peter Parker, Commissioner of U. S. A to China and Lan, the Intendant of Circuit at Shang Hae, & Woo, formerly holding the same post.

The interview was sought by the Chinese Officers & was strictly confidential & informal. The Commissioner began by inquiring how many days elapsed before a despatch could be received back from Peking, to which they replied that 18 days was as soon as it could be expected from the day it left Shang Hae.

He then proceeded to assure them of the friendly feelings, not only of the Government of the United States, but also of those of England & France, for the welfare of the Chinese, & the prosperity of their present Government; but that in order to carry out these kindly feelings, those Nations required the Chinese to reciprocate them, show they had the same. At present his Majesty knew nothing of the proceedings of other countries, nor even what was done at the ends of his Empire. These nations now come with no demands they are not willing to give to China, such as are in themselves reasonable. One of these is the residence of foreign Ministers at Peking. If the Emperor discards all these friendly

offers

offers, he cannot complain if foreign powers listen to overtures from the insurgents & make treaties with them.

The Intendant then said that this last alternative rather implicated our good will & inquired "Why do you lay so much stress upon the amity of the United States?' intimating by the question that there was perhaps an alternative

"So that you may not doubt her sincere desire for the good of China," was the Commissioners reply; adding that if her advances were received, it might assure the continuance of the dynasty. He then proceeded to show the advantages of the residence of foreign ministers at Peking one important one being the facility of explaining at Court what took place; another the instruction of Chinese in useful arts, as for instance, dyking the Yellow River, securing the revenue, &c. It was further asked what harm he supposed would ensue to the Emperor or his Government, if he consented to act in respect to residence of foreign ministers at his Court, just as the Emperor of Russia or France the Queen of England & President of the U.S.A. & other great Nations who have at their Court the Ministers of the powers with whom they have treaties? " He unhesitatingly replied that he knew of none.

The

The intendant then asked "Why do you wish to go to Peking"?

"To live there, as Ministers do in other countries", was replied. It was then stated that the letter of the President had been returned from Court to Wang.

This was done "rejoined" Law because the view of His Majesty was not that the U.S.A had not the right to require a revision of the treaty, but that as there was an Imperial Commissioner at Canton who had charge of such matters, it was proper to return it to him. No other officer could properly attend to it."

To this it was replied, that as that dignitary refused to see foreign officers, they declined to treat at Canton.

Law then asked "How would it do if another officer was appointed to treat there?"

"The place itself is too far off, unsuitable from that as well as other reasons" was the answer.

But Canton is a part of China, why can you object? inquired Law.

"Because the President has instructed me to visit the Capital, & friend should see each other" was answered. We have a proverb rejoined the Intendant that

親戚久會多欣喜

Relatives who have been separated for many years meet with much joy & delight

鄰人日見每爭疑

Whilst neighbors who see each other daily frequently come in collision. —

To which another Chinese saying was rejoined.

遠親不如近鄰

'A neighbor who is near is better than a relative far off.'

He then asked when the Commissioner thought of leaving for the Capital.

'It is uncertain' replied Dr. Parker, 'but if an Imperial Commissioner is sent to Shanghai empowered to form a treaty, & give an article allowing the residence of an American minister at Court, it will not be necessary to go at present, otherwise I do not wish to meet him'. —

The Intendants remarked 'It would be impossible for us to send such a despatch to his Majesty, as it contains an alternative involving the Court to act on our stipulations. No officer could venture to do so.'

The Commissioner replied that if such a proposition would not be agreeable at Peking, then it was in vain to talk further here: & reiterated the inquiry whether they or rather Keang the Governor General would forward such a request.

No

"No Chinese Official can do it" was the reply of both of them.—

The other then suggested that the points of the conversation might be made known to Cleang, there the conversation finished.

Commodore Armstrong then invited the Chinese Officers to accept a collation, he had spread for them in his cabin. At table, they were still full of the conversation between themselves. & Woo urged his superior to express his views on the matter as fully & with the same freedom as Dr. Parker had done, and give him a reply.

Lan said "that while it would be difficult to send a despatch to Court stating the points required, still a public memorial could be forwarded respecting the appointment of an Imperial Commissioner with full powers to negociate the revision of the Treaty, & a private supplement appended, stating the important stipulation that he should have the power to grant a residence at Court.

On this matter, however, further deliberation was necessary."

Despatch No 25. Exhibit No 3.

6th Oct. 1856.

Shang Hae. 24th Sept. 1856.

Verbal report of Leung T.S. of his visit to Woo, late Taoutae, agreeably to the request of yesterdays date.

His Excellency Woo wishes the American Minister to address to Lan himself a few lines in English that they may have something to show the Vice Roy that it is with his knowledge & consent that they address him upon the subject, when they will represent that they had heard of the intentions of the Minister to go to the North, & meeting him on board the United States Steamer "San Jacinto", they asked him his motive for going, & was informed that twelve years having elapsed it was time for the revision of the treaty, & besides there were grievances to be redressed. That they requested him not to go but to wait here, for a Commissioner to be appointed to meet him here, which they would petition the Vice Roy to seek through a memorial to the Emperor & Co.

That Lan & Woo in a private letter would state, the American Ministers conditions, viz. that it is only with the understanding that the Imperial Commissioner comes prepared to grant his residence at Peking, that he acceded to the measure of meeting him here.

Woo promises to write to Pang-Yuen-Chang, an Assistant Prime Minister, (Kee-

Ta

Ta-hsio-tse) the Patron of his son at Peking, & that His Excellency Eleang will privately write his brother Kwae Seang, the Governor General of Che li &c. who is also a Hsü-Ta-hsio-tse, to explain fully the American Ministers ideas.

In ten days at longest, & probably in six they will be able to ascertain whether Eleang will undertake to memorialize, & if so the Imperial answer will be received in one Month.

Woo is of opinion that Eleang will certainly memorialize in behalf of the American Minister. He also thinks the Emperor will be pleased with the proposition to send a Commissioner to Shang Hae, or Ningpo, and furthermore is of opinion that Ke Ying who negociated the treaty in 1844 will be appointed to revise it.

He twice over proposed that two communications be sent, the public despatch to state the request for a commissioner to be appointed, & in private to state the "sine qua non" which he thinks the Emperor will grant seeing the Russians are now living in the Capital.

In the course of the conversation, Seeng Seen-hung was asked how many men of war of the United States, are here?
Replied the Levant in which he came & the Steamer but that he had heard others are

coming

coming. Is it true the French have a very large Steamer here? Did not know.

Woo requested he should return to day or tomorrow with the views of the minister, further stated that Lam himself would show the Commissioner their despatch before sending it to the Vice Roy.

Despatch No 25. Exhibit No 4.

4 8th October 1856

I would directly state I am the present Intendant of Circuit has been at my office twice to request me to accompany him to call on Parker the American Minister in consequence of his having heard that he was going in the Steamer to Tien tsin & to get me to join in urging him not to go.

It was on the afternoon of the 23rd inst. that we both visited the Steamer "San Jacinto" to pay our respects to Commodore Armstrong, where we met the American Minister. He informed us that he had been instructed by the President to convey a public letter to Peking & personally deliver it to the Emperor of China, & also that there were various points to be discussed & settled. On leaving Kwang-tung he had informed Yeh the Governor General of his intention to proceed directly to Tien tsin, but as there was a fair wind he had stopped at Foochow on public business, where he had delayed about ten days, & had there further informed Wang, the Governor General of Min & Cheh, that on his reaching Shanghae as soon as the Steamer was repaired, he should proceed to Tien tsin. He further said, that he had transmitted through Wang, a national letter & public document (viz the President's letter & his letter of credence) to the General Council at the Capital; but that much to his surprise they had both been opened & then returned, which act he regarded

as

as impertinent, & was very much displeased at it. He had now reached Shanghae, was to proceed on in the Steamer to Tien. tsin, for the stipulated period of twelve years mentioned in the 34th. Article of the Treaty had now expired, & his intention was to go to Tien-tsin to deliberate upon certain changes in it.

I the late Intendant & Law the present, then urged his Excellency, that as there were many troubles existing at the Five Ports, & the season of ice in the river was approaching, why must he proceed on to Tien tsin? Rather let us take these several points & jointly embody them in a petition ourselves for the information of Eleang, the Governor General of Liang Kiang & Imperial Commissioner who would request His Majesty to appoint an Imperial Commissioner to meet the American Minister here or at Ningpo or Fuh Chow, & settle the regulations for or of twelve years. On other points of discussion or business, neither of us could say anything. If the Governor General consent to Memorialize, an answer can be obtained from him in eight or nine days, & not over thirty three will be required for a reply to his memorial from Peking. On his arrival the American Minister can personally confer with the newly appointed Commissioner on all these public matters & arrange them, which (of course) are things which do not concern us. If the Governor General declines to send a memorial to Court, an answer will be received

in

in eight or nine days, after which the American Minister can decide on his own course.

I will trouble you to convey the ideas of this letter to His Excellency. If he agrees to the plan please return an answer to us, for which we shall be obliged.

Wishing you daily happiness, we await the reception of your answer.

Our names are on separate cards

25th Sept. 1886. (8th Moon 27th day.)

P.S. I have just taken this letter to Lau, the Intendant, read it over with him carefully, & know that he is quite pleased with it.—

P.S. 2nd The American Minister himself said that if an Imperial Commissioner came to Kwantung to an interview, not only would not the (Envoy of the) United States of America go there, but that (those of) England & France would also decline.—

To. Liang

Secretary &c. &c.

Despatch No. 25. Exhibit

6th Oct. 18

Copy.

After our conversation of to day, I had a consultation on my return with the Intendant Law, & we concluded that it would be best for me to go tomorrow & see the American Minister personally. But I fear that (my so doing) will divulge our business. I wish that you would come to my office, where I will let you know it, that you may inform the Commissioner. I shall be at my office waiting for you.

With compliments and wishing you happiness

Name is elsewhere written

23rd Sept. 1856.

To,

Leing.

Secretary &c &c

Despatch No. 25. Ex

6th Octo

(Copy.

A direct statement I have to day consulted with the Acting Intendant Law upon the draft of the petition we are sending to the Governor General & Governor, & it is all written out in conformity with the letter which I sent you the other day to be made known to the American Minister, though it may be among the many questions & answers we had, there may be a word or an expression a little different. As to day is Sunday I wait till tomorrow before sending it. An answer may be confidently expected in a week.

I

I wish you would request the American Minister & the Secretary of Legation, as they sent you yesterday to request of the former that he would give the letter, if the purport of my petition is agreeable, which it is very important should come to me to morrow.

It is against our usage to show the draft of a petition before it has been sent forward, as Parker the Commissioner requests, as the matter must be kept private; it will be enough to furnish him a copy of it as soon as I & Law have had an answer to it.

I have been unremitting in my oversight of every place, where the sedition banditti have been disturbing the people for two years, like being dragged through mire & ashes; & my hearts desire has been that the rulers & ruled might be at peace.

I am sincerely & earnestly desirous of the settlement of this matter, neither seeking my own profit or fame, but only the advantage & credit of the Country.

I wish you every felicity.

The name is elsewhere given.

28th Sept. 1856. — (8th moon 30th day.)

To. Laing

Secretary &c &c

Despatch no 25. Exhibit 5.

6th Oct 1856

Memoranda of Instructions delivered in person to Dr. Williams - on visiting the late & present Taoutaes Shang Hae. 27th Sept. 1856.

1. ——— Present & explain the draft of my note to Cleang & say a copy of the translations shall be furnished them when the original is handed in to be sent forward. -

2. ——— Impress upon them that I rely upon their fully acquainting Cleang with the conditions on which I accede to the measure of meeting an Imperial Commissioner here, & that in their own way they be particular to have the same known to the Cabinet Ministers. -

3 ——— If they do not, & a Commissioner comes, & says he has heard nothing of the circumstances under which I consented to meet him here rather than go to Peking, the fault will not be mine, & I will not negociate with him.

4. ——— Remark that the U. S. Commissioner has spoken out his heart without reserve, & so that all he has said upon the sentiments of his Government & upon the mutual interests of the two Nations should be fully & plainly be made known to the Ministers addressed.

5. ——— Request a copy of their joint

Despatch

despatch to Cheang.

6.——— Express my hope that the measure now adopted may not miscarry, & that the interests of the two Countries for a long time to come may be affected by what is now done!—

7.——— You may allude to Keying & say that his acquaintance with this subject will peculiarly fit him for the office of Commissioner.

8.——— Carefully note every question & sentiment expressed by the Tautai.

9.——— Let the Interview be private.

P. Parker.

Despatch no 25. Exhibit 6.

6

6th Oct 1856

Minutes of an interview held with Wú t Lan, at the offices, 27th Sept 1856, by J. W. Williams, the Secretary of Legation on behalf of H. E. the U. S. Commissioner.

Dr Williams went first to the office of Wú, the ex. intendant, where the draft of the Commissioner's letter to the Governor General Eleang was read over, & a few unimportant mistakes shown in the draft Wú had sent thro' Liang of the petition he t Lan proposed to forward to Sichau on the same subject. The matter of the private notes they were to send with it, to the Governor General was adverted to, & he was told that while nothing was to be said referring to them publicly, it was very important that the Commissioner should be assured that they would be sent forward at the same time. This was responded to, as at the interview on board the Steamer, that it was a point which much more concerned them to speak upon than it did the Commissioner & no doubt need exist in his mind.

While waiting for the Intendent to prepare for the interview, Wú inquired about several matters of general interest, as Melbourne, Sydney, & Pt Jackson, & the gold fields in that region, who were the original possessors of the land & what had become of them.

—

Another

Another point he wished information on was where the English Government actually obtained the enormous amount of 500 millions of dollars for the Rupeian loan who furnished it :- He said the rich men of Shanghae had disappeared, the money was to be had in proportion to the former supplies. The principle of good faith on the part of the English Government was stated as the ground on which the people furnished it money, as they were willing to pay large sums for merely the interest promised by the rulers.

A messenger came from Yan, to whose office we all adjourned, where, after a short interval, the draft of the Commissioners letter to Eleang was read to him. He made no objection to it, but proposed to send his petition first; for the receipt of a favorable reply, then his despatch could go forward. As this was a new point, I could not assent to it, but would state it this reasons to the Commissioners learn his views. He said they wished a few words from him in English to send with their petition, as a voucher of their authorization to act, which I said I must first refer to Dr. Parker, if he promised, it should be sent back when they furnished a copy of

it

it, as the Commissioner had shown them the draft of his. This copy was to be sent by Monday morning.

As to the views of the Court, it must be evident to all that they could not promise what powers would be furnished a Commissioner sent from the Capital; all that they could say was, that he would doubtless have full powers. If Keang sent a favorable reply to their petition, the Commissioner's despatch would go to him immediately, & be embodied in his memorial to the Throne - thus no time be lost; if he declined entirely to move, that was his matter, not theirs. On this account, Kan preferred to send their petition ahead.

Their public or private letters to the Capital could only be statements & suggestions, for not even an officer of the American Government could do any more in a memorial to the President, he could not involve him to a course of action.

It was then stated, in reference to the refusal of the Commissioner to treat with Yeh at Canton, that it was grounded chiefly, on his not having been invested with powers to negociate a treaty, his office not including such a contingency. No disrespect was intended by declining to treat with Yeh, but Keying

would

would be a good appointment.

During the interview, it was plainly stated that the U. S. Commissioner had spoken out fully his views, that he expected they would meet him in the same good faith, otherwise misunderstanding & trouble would arise. Also that this arrangement if successful was likely to be advantageous to the Chinese.—

On the 29th Dr. Williams went again by direction of the Commissioner, to the residence of Wú, to whom he stated that as the copy of the joint petition to Keang had not been sent to Dr. Parker as was promised, no paper had been sent him or Lan; & that the Commissioner had prepared a despatch for the Governor General, of which a copy was furnished him. Wú then handed a copy of the petition for the Governor General which he & Lan had written, & Dr. Parker's despatch was then given him. He said both would go to Suchau this evening, & an answer be back on the 6th prosimo. Dr. Williams then left his office, and returned, as it did not seem necessary to go to the Intendants office also.

Despatch No. 25. Exhibit 9.

6th Oct. 1856

8

(Copy.)

Legation of the United States.

Shang Hae. - 29th Sept. 1856.

Sir,

The Undersigned Commissioner and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to China, has the honor to address Your Excellency the Vice Roy of the Leang Keang, & to state that he is now at Shang Hae, en route, to Peking, for the purpose of seeking a revision of the Treaty of Wang Hia, conformably to the 34th Article thereof the twelve years having expired, & also to seek redress of grievances, sustained by the Government & Citizens of the United States, satisfaction for which has been sought in vain in the South of China.

The Undersigned since his arrival at this port in exchanging Civilities with the present & late Taoutaes Lan & Woo has informally acquainted them with his intended visit to Peking, & the very friendly sentiments of the Government of the United States, towards that of China. Learning this they have requested the Undersigned to defer his visit to the North & to wait for Your Excellency to Memorialize the Throne & request the Appointment of an Imperial Commissioner to meet him here, & that they would at once apply to Your Excellency, in a Memorial to

the

the Throne, to lay the subject before His Majesty.

Notwithstanding the President of the United States has requested His Imperial Majesty to appoint a Commissioner to meet the Undersigned at Peking, there to deliberate for the revision of the Treaty &c he has assumed the grave responsibility of acceding to their wishes to wait the appointment of a Commissioner with full powers to negociate here, at Shang Hae.

The Undersigned will only add, on this occasion, his deep & sincere desires for the highest good of the Ta tsing Dynasty, & the assurance that his Government seeks nothing incompatible with strict justice, & the rights, honor, dignity, & permanent prosperity of your Honorable & most ancient & great Empire.

The Undersigned avails himself of this opportunity to present to Your Excellency the assurance of his high consideration & has the honor to remain,

Sir.

Your Excellency's Most Obet. Servt.

Peter Parker

(L.S.)

To His Excellency

Ekang

Vice Roy of the Leang Kiang Provinces

&c &c &c

Despatch No 25. Exhibit 9.-

9 6th October 1856.

Copy of petition sent by the Intendant of circuit at Shang Hae to the Governor General Cleang & the Governor.

A respectful petition. As I was visiting the American Commodore on board his steamer after her arrival at Shang Hae. I learned that Parker the American Commissioner was intending to go up to Tien-tsin & concluded that I & the late Intendant Woo should go & visit him for the purpose of urging him to stop. This point I have already informed Your Excellencies of.-

Accordingly on the 23rd inst. we had an interview with the American Minister. who told us, 'That the President had given him a letter to take to Peking to deliver to the Emperor, that he had several matters of business to settle there.' When he was leaving Canton, he informed the high Authorities there that he was going directly to Tien-tsin, and straightway imbarked therefor. But as the wind was fair, he stopped in at Fuh Chow for ten days or so on business of public importance, & there informed Wang the Governor General that as soon as the Steamer reached Shang Hae after his own arrival there, he should pursue his voyage on to Tien tsin. He also added "That he had forwarded through Wang to the General Council

the

President's Letter & Letter of Credence: but that unexpectedly they had been returned to him after having been opened, which act was very impertinent & had displeased him much. He had now reached Shanghae & should proceed to Tien-tsin in the Steamer, for the period of twelve years mentioned in the 34th. Article of the Treaty had expired, & he wished to go there to negociate & consult upon changes in it."—

I & Wos then intimated to him, that the present time was one of much business at the five ports & the season of ice on the river was approaching, & inquired why it was so necessary for him to go on to Tien-tsin,— why not allow us the Intendants to state all these particulars in his behalf to His Excellency Keang, the Governor General of Liang Kiang who would memorialize the Throne for a Commissioner to be appointed to meet him & confer on all these points? It would not require more than seven or eight days for an answer to come to our petition: & if H.E. was willing to memorialize, not more than thirty would elapse before a receipt would arrive.

If it was not convenient to inform the Count, then after the seven or eight days had elapsed to get the answer (from Keang) he could then decide on his movements as he pleased."—

The

The American Minister Parker assented to this, but added "that if such a Commissioner was appointed to go to Canton to meet him, not only would the U.S. (Commissioner) decline to go there, but even the Chinese Officer would not wish it."—

It seems proper in my humble opinion, that as the American Minister Parker has consented to await the arrival of a Commissioner to confer with him on these matters, it is right for me to beg your Excellencies to regard the proposition favorably, & conjointly memorialize on it, begging the Imperial favor to select & appoint a high Officer in whom he has confidence to come to Shang Hae, or Ningpo, there to confer & deliberate personally with him.—

This would exhibit, consideration & kindness, avoid all hurry & confusion, & in fact be convenient to all parties. Whether your Excellencies will regard the propositions favorable or not, I can but wait till you have done what is proper.

I have carefully prepared this petition & respectfully wishing you good health, I humbly beg your will please to examine this — A careful petition. —

(From Lán the Intendent of Circuit at Shang Hae to Chang the Governor General of Liáng Kiáng:
Sent about 1st October 1856.)

Despatch No. 25. Exhibit 10.
to
6th Oct. 1856.

(Copy.) Legation of the United States of America. - Shang Hae. 29th Sept. 1856.

To H. E. Lan.
Intendant of Circuit for Sung &c. &c. and
Woo, late Intendent of Circuit, & Special Deputy.
&c. &c. &c.

Sirs.

I am directed by His Excellency Peter Parker, Commissioner of the United States and Ambassador to China, &c. &c. to request that you will forward the accompanying Despatch to H. E. Kiang, Governor General of Liang Kiang, &c. &c. at Suchau, as soon as convenient by the Government Couriers.

I have the honor to be,
Sirs,
Respectfully Yours.
(signed,) S. Wells Williams
Secretary of Legation & Interpreter

(L. S.)

N. B. This was returned as not being satisfactory.

Despatch No. 25. Exhibit 11.

6th Oct. 1856.

Legation of the United States.—

Shang Hae.—29th Sept. 1856

To.

Wu. Late Intendant of Circuit

at Shang Hae. &c. &c.

Sir.

Your letter of the 23rd inst has been received presented to the U. S. Commissioner & Minister Plenipotentiary. In it you explain the petition proposed to be forwarded by yourself & Law the present Intendant to H. E. Sliáng, the Governor General of Liang Kiang requesting him to memorialize the Throne that a commissioner with Plenipotentiary powers be appointed to meet His Excellency at Shang Hae &c.

I have now to inform you that the American Minister accepts your explanation & directs me to convey to you his wish that you will accordingly petition His Excellency Sliáng to that effect.

I have the honor to be

Sir.

Your's Obediently

(L.S.) S. W. Williams

Secretary of Legation & Chinese Interpreter.

N.B. This was accepted.—

Rec'd 16. Dec. Mr Reed

No 26.

Legation of the United States.

Shang hae 7th Oct. 1856.

Sir.

I have the honor & satisfaction to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch No 6. dated 2nd June, the Senate having confirmed my appointment as Commissioner of the United States to China, transmitting my regular commission in that character.

I am, Sir, Respectfully,

Your Obed Svt.

Peter Parker

Hon: J. H. Thomas.

Assistant Secretary

Washington

Rec'd 26. Dec. Mr Dennett

United States Legation

— No. 27. —

Shang hae 7th Oct. 1856.

His Excellency —

William L. Marcy;

Secretary of State of the United States.

Washington.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch No. 7. of the 11th June advising me that you had caused a box containing sundry public Documents to be forwarded to my address for the Legation of the United States. I shall be most happy to receive it. —

I have also the honor to transmit the Department my correspondence with the different Consulates &c Exhibits 1 to as per Index. The departure of the Mail a day earlier than expected, precludes my accompanying them with any comments. This course I prefer to retaining the Correspondence another Month. To some of the Exhibits I may revert hereafter.

I will only add that reports are current of dissention among the Insurgents at Nanking & that Yang the Eastern King has been slain by Wei the Northern King. — The prospects of the

Imperialists

Imperialists in this region are improved since the date of last Mail, & vice versa in the South of China. The trade at this Port is reviving. —

Apologizing for haste & brevity, I remain, with sentiments of high consideration,

Sir,
Your most Obed. Servt.
Peter Parker

Index

Despatch No. 27 7th October 1856.

1.–	Correspondence with H. B. Mrs Minister Hong Kong.
2.–	Correspondence with Fuh Chow Consulate
3.–	Correspondence with Amoy Consulate
4.–	Correspondence with Canton Consulate

Despatch No. 27 Exhibit 1.

No. 182. 7th Oct 1856.

Superintendency of Trade.
Hong Kong. 21st August 1856.

Sir,

I have received Your Excellency's interesting Despatch dated Shang Hae 12th August.

If, in spite of the delays & difficulties Your Excellency has experienced you are still able to reach the Peiho river & to enter upon useful negociations during the present season, I shall most heartily rejoice in your success, but it is quite possible that in its extremity the Chinese Cabinet may be more willing than it has hitherto shown itself to lend a favorable ear to the representations of friendly Powers.

But if the reference in your Excellency's Despatch to "foreign aid against their domestic foe" which "the Emperor & Cabinet may be delighted to receive directly & openly" implies an interference with internal questions beyond the limits which the protection of Commercial interests & of the persons & property of British

To His Excellency
Dr Peter Parker
Commissioner of the U States to China
&c &c &c

subjects, may prescribe in other words if the Imperial Government should make the armed intervention of Great Britain, in its favor the condition of concession political or Commercial I think it desirable at once to advise Your Excellency that I am not authorized to promise such intervention, all my instructions imposing on me the necessity of preserving an absolute Neutrality in regard to political dissentions among the Chinese.

If after all Your Excellency should find it impossible to make the needful arrangements for visiting the Gulf of Pechele during the present season. I shall be most happy to discuss with you the measures which it may be desirable to recommend to our respective Governments with a view to that cordial co-operation & efficient action which may be determined on for the coming year. — to which co-operation & action I mainly look for the improvement of our relations with China. —

According to the latest dates I have received from the British Admiral he may be expected to reach this Harbor in the course of the next Month

I

I have had an opportunity of discuping with the Count de Courcy, the instructions he has received from his Government, which gives him no immediate hope of having any maritime force at his disposal. - meanwhile he has received no powers from the Emperor to enable him to enter upon negociations.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Excellency's
Most Obedient
Humble Servant
(Signed.) John Downing

true Copy.
Thos. J. Reynolds.

2

No. 175.

Superintendency of Trade.
Hong Kong. 12th Augt. 1856.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that I have just received a communication from Commodore Armstrong stating that you had requested him to inform me officially, when he expected to reach Shanghae, & he advises me that he hopes to be there by the 10th Sept. Without coming to any positive conclusion. (as my views may be changed by the Despatches of the next Mail) I cannot but express my apprehensions that there will not be sufficient time for my making arrangements for a visit to the Gulf of Pecheli during the present season with such an accompaniment of Naval forces as I should think desirable in order to give to the Mission a fair prospect of success.

I.

His Excellency.
Dr. Peter Parker
Commissioner of the United States to China
&c &c &c

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Excellency's
Most obed. Humble Servt.
(Signed,) John Bowring

true Copy.
Thos. Reynolds.

Copy.

U. S. Flag Ship "San Jacinto."
Shanghae. 13th Sept. 1856.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th Inst. via Hong Kong.

I have been very sick for two or three weeks — I am now free from disease, but very much debilitated. I hope to be able to pay my respects to yourself & Lady on Monday the 15th Inst. —

With great respect.
Your Obed. Servt.
(signed.) Ja.s Armstrong.

Comdg. U. S. Naval Forces
East India & China Seas

His Excellency
Peter Parker,
U. S. Commissioner to China
Shanghae.

Despatch No. 27. Exhibit 2.
7th Oct. 1856.

No. 18.

U. S. Consulate.
Fuh Chow. foo. 25th Aug. 1856.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the fourteenth inst. I regret to inform you that your reasonable expectations relative to the murder of our Countryman on the 3rd July, are doomed to disappointment. Not one single promise made by the Authorities while you were here has been complied with. Even the proclamation, the draft of which you prepared has never been put up by them, so far as I have been able to ascertain. Mr Medhurst obtained two copies of it. I had them put up himself. I went several times through the street where the murder was committed, for the express purpose of ascertaining if the proclamation had been posted, but it has not, & in my opinion nothing will be done. I have written to the Prefect frequently, & in the most respectful terms, & urged him to carry out the promises which had been made to you, both verbally & in writing. My Communications were answered in the usual manner, that is, by making more promises, to be as usual violated. On the 2nd inst. I received a communication from the Prefect

in

in which he very coolly informed me that the persons whom he had arrested, declared that they knew nothing of the murder, & consequently they had been released, & that the real murderer had run away.

Every doubt was thus removed from my mind, & I became perfectly satisfied that communicating with the Authorities any farther upon the subject was a useless waste of time, & that it was now my imperative duty to adopt one of two courses, either strike my Flag, which is no longer the emblem of protection here or take what was to me the more disagreeable step of stopping the duties. I have adopted the latter, & have with-held the duties due on the "Baron de Rupell" "Mandarin" & "Vancouver", & shall continue to stop them, until the Authorities here do something more than make promises. The course which I have taken was the only one in my judgment which promised the slightest chance of obtaining justice. It remains to be seen even if this will. If not, then I say, in Gods Name, let the outrages, insults, & contempt which has been heaped upon us here, until the very name of an American has invited aggression, instead of commanding respect, be vindicated, if need be, at the

Cannons

Cannons mouth. Let the Authorities see that our Nation has the power & determination to maintain its honor, & punish evil doers. Let them see that the blood of our Countrymen cannot be spilt in open day with impunity. Let them by all means understand distinctly that mere promises will no longer avail. Then we shall be secure, & our Countrymen who are here under the solemn stipulations of the Treaty will be able to prosecute their business, without the fear of an assassin, or the fire of an incendiary. It was necessary something should be done, & I sincerely hope, that you will concur with me in the steps I have taken. I have acted with the single view of obtaining justice & not until I had carefully weighed the whole subject, with all of its consequences, & not until it seemed certain, that the Authorities here considered the treaty as a dead letter, with the exception of those Articles which provide for the payment of duties by Citizens of the UStates; did I resort to this measure. I am unwilling to be even a passive party to any such construction. If the treaty, in its true meaning & intent, is to be constantly disregarded as it has been by the Authorities here, their honor, duty, & interest would

relieve

relieve us from the burdens of a compact from which no protection can be derived or benefit received.

I deemed it best that my intentions to stop the duties, should be a profound secret, except to our own Countrymen. My object was to get as much due (from) the Authorities, as possible, before they found out my intentions. I informed Mr. Medhurst of it only four days since, & the very next day in an interview with the "Hai Quan" he spoke of it. The "Hai Quan" told him that it could not be so, as he had heard nothing about it. Mr. Medhurst was much surprised & expressed afterwards his sincere regret to me, that, he had alluded to it. I suppose now, I shall soon hear from the Authorities upon the subject.

I now leave the matter in your hands. Should you think I have erred, I am sure you will give me credit for good intentions, & I shall wait with great anxiety to hear from you.

26th August.

I have this moment received a communication from the Vice. Roy for you, with it the box, in which you enclosed the letter from the President to the Emperor.

It

It seems that another insult of the gravest character is now added to the catalogue.

The Presidents letter is returned!!! — I sincerely hope that this is the last pound upon the Camels back, & that now negociation will end, & action begin.

Under the circumstances I hope you will excuse me for being indignant. I only regret that I have not the force under my control to vindicate this last insult to the Nation, the President, & yourself.

No one in Fish Town except Mr. Williams who takes this letter to you, will know anything of this from me. I feel too mortified about it, that I hope it will remain a secret, until the grop insult is fully atoned for. In my opinion the Presidents letter has not been outside of the City gates since you delivered it to the Vice Roy, until this morning, when it was returned to me.

With sentiments of the highest respect. I have the honor to be

Dear Sir,

Your obed. Serv.t

Caleb Jones.

U. S. Consul

true Copy.—

Thos. J. Reynolds.

1.

(P.T.O.)

To,

His Excellency,

Peter Parker,

U. S. Commissioner &

Minister Plenipotentiary to China.

now in Shanghai

No. 19.

U States Consulate.

Fuh Chow Foo. 27th Augt. 1856.

Sir,

The detention of the Steamer "Confucious" enables me to report to you, that I this morning received a communication from the Hai Quan enquiring why American Ships departed without paying the duties. I replied very briefly that they had done so with my consent, but that every dollar due, would be paid to the Authorities as soon as the murderers of my countryman had been arrested & punished, according to the treaty, strict justice, & promises made to you & me by the high Authorities.

I have reason to believe that your negociations here have been seriously injured by a report sent to Mr Medhurst from Sir John Bowring, stating that you had been recalled, & that Colt Marshall was coming out as your successor.

As soon as Mr Medhurst informed me of it, I gave it as my opinion that report was entirely destitute of truth, & expressed the hope, that no credit would

lee

be given to a rumor which I believed to be in one part, highly improbable, and in the other almost impossible. But notwithstanding my request the Authorities were notified of it & I am informed, I believe, by the English Authorities here. Consequently the Chinese Authorities presume to return the President letter, otherwise I cannot think they would have dared to have done so.

The day after they heard this report, they returned the letter to me. It was only last evening that I knew anything of this rumor having been sent to the Authorities. I have not the slightest doubt but that the Prefect was <u>almost</u> officially informed that you were no longer U. S. Commissioner, & at the same time he was told, the information came from such a source, that there could be no doubt of its truth, & I believe you have received the President's letter in consequence. Whether I am right or wrong in this latter opinion I trust you will inform Sir John Bowring that reports like the one alluded to, should not be circulated by him, & repeated by those under him, as they are calculated to do no good, but much harm.

I

I have the honor to remain
With great respect.
Your Obed.t Serv.t
Caleb Jones
U. S. Consul

To.
His Excellency
Peter Parker.
U. S. Commissioner &
Minister Plenipotentiary to China
now in Shanghae

true Copy.
Thos. J. Reynolds

Wang C. Tih, by Imperial Appointment, a President of the Board of War, Vice President of the Colonial Board, member of the Board of Imperial Censors, Governor General of Pih Kiew & Chih Keang, Superintendent of the affairs of the Army & Commissariat of the Ta tsing Empire, has the honor to make this communication touching matters of record:

It appears from the records that on various occasions I have received communications from the Honorable Minister relative to the case of a Citizen of the U.States, who was killed in a mutual quarrel with subjects of China, & that already I the Vice-Roy have vigorously commanded the local Authorities under whose jurisdiction it occured to bestir themselves at once & arrest the criminals & prosecute & punish them. Now the Magistrates of the Min District has represented to me that one Murderer, Tung-Hwa-Kwen, has been arrested who testifies & acknowledges that he stabbed & mortally wounded the Citizen of the U. States (the late Howard Cunningham).

Besides ordering the Magistrate of the Min District to bestir himself quickly

and

and rigorously to try him, & according to law send him up through all the different tribunals for management. (i.e. for trial & punishment.)

I also as requisite make this communication, & avail myself, of the opportunity to present my compliments & wishes for your tranquility & happiness.

(Signed.) Wang E. Teh.

To. — His Excellency
Peter Parker,
Commissioner & Minister Plenipotentiary
of the U. S. A. to China

Hien Fung 6th year, 7th month & 29th day.
(29th August 1856.)

true Copy
Thos. J. Reynolds.

Legation of the U. States.
Shang hae. 13th Sept. 1856.

Sir,

Your Despatches 18 & 19 of the 25th & 27th ult. have been duly received informing me that you had stopped the duties on certain American Vessels at Fuh Chow, & the circumstances under which, you had resorted to the measure. By the same Steamer, I received a Despatch from the Vice Roy returning the President's Letters to the Emperor, with an extract from a letter received from the Ministers of the Privy Council, & another Despatch, informing me that one of the Murderers of Wm Cunningham had been arrested had confessed to his guilt, & that orders had been given for his speedy trial & punishment.

I fully appreciate the trial of patience to which you have been subjected & whilst giving it full weight in palliation of the step you have taken can but express my deep regret that the instructions of your Government, conveyed to you in my notes of 19 & 30th of July not to resort to the extreme measure of stopping the duties without the

consent

consent of the Commissioner, had not been adhered to in the present instance. But, the measure having been adopted, I now enclose you a copy of the Vice-Roy's communication of the 29th August with instructions that if on the receipt of this the murderer therein named has been punished according to the laws of China & the promises of the Vice-Roy to issue the proclamation & to dispose of the case of the "Vandalia" shall have been fulfilled you will of course deliver over the duties you have withheld. If not, still retain them till you shall have communicated with me again, or the ends for which they are detained are satisfactorily gained. If from the lapse of time, in your judgment, the affair of the "Vandalia" had better not be pressed, you will act at your discretion as to making that a sine qua non to the payment of these duties.

Your belief that the box containing the Presidents' letters had not been out of Prince Chow is erroneous. They have been to Peking, & no doubt opened & perused by the Ministers of the Privy Council, who

have

have had the audacity to state, in the face of the Treaty, that it was not the Province of His Excellency Wang to memorialize & forward them but that it reverts to His Excellency Yé the Imperial Commissioner at Canton to manage! The chief importance I attach to this fresh act of indignity & bad faith, is the evidence that the policy of the Imperial Court to keep foreigners at a distance, remains unchanged. His Excellency Wang has done his duty under the Treaty, & I acquit him accordingly. I have duly reported the subject to the Government at Washington, & in the mean time shall be guided by my best judgment & the circumstances of the case.

The "San Jacinto" Commodore J. Armstrong arrived at this port from Japan on the 11th instant.

Very Respectfully
Your Obed.t Serv.t
Peter Parker

No. 20.

U. S. Consulate
Tsih Chow 9th Sept. 1876.

Sir,

I am in receipt of your despatch of the 26th of August, with it the original complaint of Burton. I have but little to communicate at this time. The Authorities promised to have the matter of the detention of Rupell & Co's boats (engaged in loading the Samuel Rupell) investigated but I have heard nothing of it since & suppose they think the promise sufficient. I am not surprised to learn that the Vice Roy informs you, that in relation to the murder of W. Cunningham, he is "proceeding according to the laws of the Empire, "that the Criminals have been arrested, that the "evidence taken down in writing he has, or will "communicate to the appropriate Boards at Peking" &c &c. I suppose the communication from the Vice Roy to you is about the same date (2nd August) as the communication from the Prefect to me, in which he stated the persons who had been arrested had been discharged after examination, & the real murderer had run away. Both of these statements cannot be true, & I am inclined to the belief that the Prefect has made one statement to the Vice Roy

and

and quite a different one to me upon the same subject, & I think the true one is made to me, as this morning I received a communication from the Prefect stating that he now had the murderers, & asking me to furnish him with the name age &c of Mr. Cunningham, in order for him to proceed with the examination. I am convinced that the stoppage of the duties has wrought this change, & that the Prefect will attempt to pass off for the murderer of W. Cunningham, some criminal from the City who knew nothing about it. I shall insist before punishment is inflicted upon any one for the murder, that the Prefect shall cause a proclamation to be put up, stating the punishment to be inflicted upon the Criminal is in consequence of having murdered an American Citizen. She must furnish one with copies of the same. I think perhaps that such a course will prevent the Authorities from punishing any one but the real offenders. I at least hope so. If they will do this, it is all I can ask, & I shall at once have the duties paid up. The Hae Inan expressed his entire willingness that the duties on four ships should be stopped until the murderers were punished, but begged of me not to stop any more,

Yes

as he thought $40.000 would be quite sufficient to induce the Authorities to move in the matter, which he frankly admitted they were not then doing. This conversation took place on the 30th August, at which time I am confident no one was in custody charged with the murder of Mr. Cunningham. It is very hard to say what course it is best to pursue while dealing with such a slippery set. I have lost all patience with them, but I am determined to have satisfaction for this foul murder, or give them no rest while I am in charge here.

I have the honor to be

With great respect.

Your Obed. Serd.

(Signed) Caleb Jones.

U. S. Consul.

His Excellency

Peter Parker.

U. S. Commissioner &

Minister Plenipotentiary to China.

Now in Shanghae.

Despatch No. 27. Exhibit 3.
7th Oct. 1856.

Consulate of the U. S.
Amoy 1st Sept. 1856.

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to enclose to you, herewith, a list of the Imports & Exports to & from the Port of Amoy in American Vessels, from 1st July 1855 to 30th June 1856. the last fiscal year. I have delayed sending you this report hoping to have been able to furnish other facts, statistics &c that might be of service to you. But a continued indisposition, almost wholly unfitting me for business for nearly the whole time since you left this Port, until within a week or so past, has prevented from fulfilling my intentions as I desired.

In compliance with your request, I will now give you some of the particulars in relation to the measure, expenses &c of obtaining Coal from the Peh-leh Coal mines. These mines are on or near the Chiew Lung, or nine dragon rivers, about one hundred & fifty miles from Amoy - & from which there is water carriage all the way, excepting from the Mines to Peh-leh, (about one mile & a half,) & about eight miles portage across a bend in the River. From Tae Heang to Nia Lon, I will give you an extract from the memoranda I made on a visit to the mines in January 1855.

"The

The principal mines or pits, are in the side of a mountain, some two hundred feet above the level of the plain, & an hundred below the summit, the shafts or tunnels, running in on nearly a horizontal parallel. The first one we entered was something less than five feet in diameter, & as dark as Erebus; after groping our way in, for an hundred feet or more, in a stooping posture, & finding it grew darker & blacker, we returned, as it was impossible to see any thing. We entered another, under more favorable circumstances, it was about five feet diameter at the mouth, & enlarged as we went on, until it became from six to seven feet high & broad. One of the miners preceded us with a torch, which gave us an opportunity of inspecting the cavern more minutely. We proceeded about two hundred feet, to the extremity of the tunnel; the sides & the arch-way, overhead, were one mass of glaky scale, glistening like polished jets. Structures of bamboo were erected all the way along, to prevent the sides & top from caving in, for although it seemed as solid as a rock of granite, some of it, in taking it in the fingers, would crumble to pieces like slackened lime. On one side was a turn-out leading to another parallel pit; & on the other, an opening with a deep shaft or well, with water at the bottom.

Here

there are five or six of these tunnels opened. & the quantity of coal seemed inexhaustible. It is a species of the Anthracite, & some of it is quite hard, although portions, as we have stated, easily crumble to pieces. This fine coal dust is preferred by the Chinese for use in making lime, & for some other purposes; but it is poor stuff to burn, without harder lumps with it."

There are other coal mines on the river, above Peh sehs, near a town called Sing Yang, but the coal is inferior to that of Peh seh, although it is often sold in Amoy for that.

The actual cost of mining the coal, & bringing it to Amoy, as near as I could gather from the best information I could obtain, by putting the various items together is about $3 per ton; although the expense is much more than that, where it passes through several hands, & is made to pay the consequent commissions.

But I think, after all, that the most reliable resources for obtaining Coal, & those which promise to be of the greatest utility are the mines at Formosa. And it seems to me to be of great importance, looking to the probable future, when our Country shall have a direct & regular steam communication with this, that we should obtain from the Chinese Government the right to procure Coal at Formosa. I have not been

able

able to make such personal examinations into the extent & best practicable means of developing the resources of these Mines, as I could desire & hope yet to be able to do, if a suitable occasion shall offer

I received the note you sent by the pilot of the Levant, on the eve of your departure from this Port, & made the suggested explanations to the Taoutae, in your behalf, as you desired, with which he appeared satisfied. —

I have the gratification of informing you also, that the Taoutae made a friendly call of ceremony upon me, at the Consulate on Kulangsu about the 1st August. He appeared well enough pleased with the situation of the Consulate, at all events, said not a word against it, but appeared very sociable & friendly, & said to Mr. Morrison the British Acting Consul, who met with him here, at his request, that he had been misinformed in relation to the position of things at Kulangsu, & saw himself, no objection to foreigners residing here; — and in fact, on the same visit, he gave permission to some of the British Merchants of Amoy to go on with the erection of a large structure, which they had commenced building for the purpose of some amusements at ball playing &c. near the foreign gardens on this Island.

The

The Hae Jong also came over with the Taoutae, as far as the inside of my grounds, but excused himself from coming up into the House, on account of the fatigue he had experienced in walking up from the landing! although the Taoutae walked up without the least difficulty. The Hae Jong probably recollected the disreputable course he had taken on former occasions, to prevent my building on Ku langsu, & could not well brook the chagrin of seeing my course thus virtually approved, by his superior in Office, the Taoutae, so he remained outside; with the servants, for a while, & then went over to the gardens. The Taoutae spent about an hour with me. She had a few days after you left, invited myself & son to an entertainment which he gave on some festal occasion, at his residence in Amoy, but being indisposed, & she not having then called upon me, according to custom since his arrival in Amoy, I made my excuse.— but my son attended, & was cordially received.

The Taoutae appears very friendly disposed towards us, but he has not yet made any strong efforts, as I can learn, towards releasing the Chinese Converts who were imprisoned at his instigation, before his assuming his official functions at Amoy. He promises fair, but as yet seems to do very little. He

is

is now away among some villages on the East Coast, with a large number of soldiers, in pursuit of rebels. —

I hope you may be successful in your negociations with the Imperial Authorities; yet I am aware that you have an arduous, difficult & thankless duty to perform; & that from your long acquaintance in this Country, much will be expected from you by our Countrymen at home — more, I fear, than it is reasonable to expect from any human power, who has to deal with such a people as the Chinese. But I trust that all will end for the best.

If there is any way in which I can be of service to you, please command me, on all occasions, & I shall be most ready & willing to co-operate to the extent of my ability.

Very Respectfully Yours
(Signed,) T. Hart. Hyatt.

His Excellency
Peter Parker
Commissioner &c
Shanghai

Imports & Exports. to & from the Port of Amoy in American Vessels from July 1st 1855. to 30th June 1856.

Imports.

No of Vessels 18. Tonnage. 10.557 tons.- 316 Bales Yarn, 1162 packages Sandal wood. 354 do. Sundries 92 do.- Beche de mer.

Total value $145.300.

Exports.

No of Vessels 18. Tonnage. 10,015 tons - 6.782 boxes Oolong Tea. 14.500 Piculs. Rice. Sugar, Tea. etc. 14.154 packages Sugar - 882 do. Tobacco. 60 Bales drills. 35 cases Dried. fruit. Salt &c.

Total value $113.034

Total Imports.-

Vessels. 18, Tonnage 10.557. Value of Cargo - $145.300.

Total Exports.-

Vessels 18.- Tonnage 10,015 - Value of Cargo. $113.034.

U. S Consulate. Amoy. 1. Sept 1856. } (Signed.) D. H. Hyatt.

Recd 29 Jany. Mr Reed

Legation of the United States.

No. 28. Shanghai 1st Nov. 1856.

His Excellency.
W. L. Marcy.
Secretary of State. Washington.

Sir,

Under date of the 6th ulty I had the honor to inform the Department of the point to which I had arrived in relation to the revision of the Treaty, my inability to reach Peking the present season, & the nature of that inability. Also my proposition to meet an Imperial Plenipotentiary at Shanghai, on condition he come prepared to grant the residence of the United States Minister at Peking, & the manner in which that proposition had been accepted by the local authorities, & the encouragement held out that the plan might succeed, at the same time stating "my acquaintance with Chinese "Character & diplomacy extended through too "many years to allow me to be over sanguine "of the realization of their promises".

I have now to inform you that all prospect of that measure succeeding is at an end & that I have notified His Excellency Keang, Governor General of the Leeang Keang.

that

that the visit to the Capital is postponed to the ensuing season, requesting the same to be communicated to Court.

The accompanying Exhibits Nos 1 a 11 contain full details of all that has transpired since the date of my last despatch in relation to the revision of the Treaty. Hereafter when more at leisure, I propose to resume the subject in a separate communication, in the mean time, respectfully invite your attention to the replies of the Governor & Governor General to the Taoutae Lan Exhibit Nos 1. 2. & 3 the private letter of the Governor to their honors Lan & Woo No 6. . My despatch to the Vice Roy of the 27th ult. No 9. . & my correspondence with the English & French Legations ——— Nos 10. 11. & 12

It is my purpose to embark on the 3rd inst. in the U.S.S. "San Jacinto" for the South of China.

With sentiments of distinguished consideration. - I have the honor to remain.

Sir.

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient Servant

Peter Parker

1 Despatch No 28. Exhibit No 1.

1st Nov: 1856.

Lau Wei-wan. acting Intendant of circuit at Shang Hae &c &c has petitioned that the Court be memorialized to appoint a high Officer to manage & settle the regulations of commerce. It was received on the 1st October. and I. Sleang. Governor General &c now reply:-

I have received the communication of the American Minister Parker & examined it carefully. It appears that in exchanging civilities with the Intendant his going to the North had been delayed & he was remaining at Shang Hae until a high minister could be appointed to meet & confer with him:- It is plain from this that the American Minister has sentiments of the highest regard for mutual & permanent peace & prosperity with China. and I the Governor General truly am highly delighted thereat. But heretofore. in all matters relating to commerce (the public envoys of) England. America & France have unitedly deliberated. while the Envoys of those two Nations still remain at Kwang tung. that of America alone the Minister Parker. has come to Shang Hae. If then those two Nations should consult while at Kwantung. and I should memorialize the Court to appoint a high Officer (as now requested). the whole matter would have a double hearing. which would be highly inconvenient.

Let

Let further and careful inquiries be made of the American Minister, & immediate reply be sent me as to your consultations and conclusions: for I regard it as highly important & am desirous to see it well forwarded. & do not do this to hinder a reference to Court. The Minister Parker is regarded as intelligent & reasonable, & will doubtless take the same view, so that I wait until I receive the reply of the Intendants, before answering the communication from him which I have just received. Wait also for a reply from the Governor.—

2nd October 1856.

To the Intendants of Circuit at Shanghae. Lëw.

True Translation.

J. Wells Williams

Secretary of Legation &

Chinese Interpreter.

Despatch No. 28. Exhibit No. 2.

1st Novr 1856.

Lau Wei-wan, acting Intendant of circuit at Shanghae, &c. &c. has petitioned that the court be memorialized to appoint a high officer to manage & settle the regulations of commerce. It was received on the 30th of September & I, Chaw, Acting Govr of the Province of Kiangsu now reply, —.

At your interview with Parker the American minister he truly informed you of his being the bearer of a National letter to Peking; you, the Intendant, agreed to petition me that I would memorialize on this behalf; and further he was willing himself to wait until the Imperial Commissioner could arrive to confer with him, from which can be seen his desire for lasting harmony and entire good correspondence. —

But heretofore, in all deliberations on public matters, the three Nations have jointly consulted; now, if England & France should commence separate negociations in Kwantung, & America should have them in Kiangsu or Chekiang, it would then be no otherwise than making a double business of the whole (lit. forking into two rills). —

I yesterday received His Excellency Elcano's letter, from which I see that his views coincide with mine. I expect then that you

will

will again make further inquiries in conjunction with Woo, the late Intendant, as to the real points, & inform me what you have ascertained in a second petition. It is not that I, the Acting Governor, or His Excellency the Governor General, are at all afraid of sending such a Memorial to Court (that we make these inquiries.)

Wait for a reply from the Governor General upon this subject. There is another inclosure forwarded. —

5th October 1856.

To the acting Intendant at Shanghae. —

True Translation.

S. Wells Williams

Secretary of Legation & Chinese Interpreter

3

Despatch No. 28. Exhibit No. 3.

1st Nov. 1856

(Copy.)

U. S. Legation.

Shang Hae 8th Oct. 1856.

To Their Excellencies

Lan & Wan Intendents of Circuit

&c. &c. &c.

Sirs,

In reference to the apprehension of Their Excellencies the Governor & Governor General that England & France may commence separate negociations in Canton whilst America is negociating at Shang Hae, which would be highly inconvenient. as expressed in their replies to your petition. I am instructed by H. E. Parker the American Plenipotentiary to state to you that the apprehension he believes to be groundless. The Ministers of the three Nations are intimately acquainted with each others views & the wishes of their respective governments & had the Ministers of England & France any such purpose they would certainly have informed the American Minister.

His Excellency truly regrets this unexpected delay - & desires that the Memorial of the Governor and Governor General go forward without further delay and the earlier the Imperial Commissioner arrives at Shang Hae - the better for the

both

both countries.

I have the honor to be,

Sirs,

Your Obed.t Serv.t

S. Wells Williams

Secretary of Legation & Chinese

Interpreter.

(L. S.)

4 Despatch No. 28. Exhibit 4

1st Nov. 1856.

Instructions to Leong S.S.

18th October 1856.

Wait on H. E. Lan, present him my compliments say that I was told that on the 8th or 9th of this month I should receive an answer from H.E. Seang.- at which time only an answer was received to H. E's Petition asking information before replying to the American Minister: that information was given through the Secretary of Legation on the 10th - That ten days more have passed away and no reply is yet received

Inform His Excellency that the season is now getting late, & the Minister is anxious to know what the Governor & Governor General propose to do.

Remember & report every thing H. E. says.

18th October 1856.

5 Leong S.S. Reports.

No answer has come yet. The Taoutae is himself anxious, had waited on Lan who thinks it must come to day or tomorrow. - When it comes he will send for Leong to come & receive

it

it must trust it to his own man. - It was unnecessary to Leong to go to Law as Woo had just returned from his Court.

He enquired if there is any news from Canton. Enquired after the health of the Commissioner, the Commodore, Dr Williams, Dr Bridgman, Mr Gray & others & seemed in good spirits. -

Leong asked if anything accidental could have occurred to delay the answer. He thought not. As Leong left he remarked not only is the Commissioner anxious, but I also, as I am desirous to go & see the Governor General, but am delayed for the answer. -

22nd Oct. 1856.

b Report of Leong's S.S.

When I asked H.E. Woo, the cause of the delay in receiving the reply to H. E. Cleang. - His Excellency said. I do not know the reason of it exactly neither does H. E. Law, but we both think it must be in consequence of H.E. Cleang on the 23rd inst having to deliver his seal of office as Commander of the army to

Ho-chun was busy in preparing his Registers, &c He had also to attend to many ceremonies incident to the occasion, the examination of records, arms, troops, &c Lan has sent a number of times to enquire for the 19th he sent a special messenger by the Too-chow route to meet the despatch, & to find out the cause of delay, & to hurry the postman. He thinks it will certainly arrive this evening or tomorrow. - If the reply arrives before noon tomorrow, very well, if not, I will send & request you & Dr Williams to go to Lan's Court at 1. o'c. & I will inform Lan that he may dispense with all ceremony of firing a salute &c on the occasion. - H. E. Lan is in deep affliction on account of the death of his second son, at the age of 35 years, who was much beloved by his grandmother, who wept bitterly. & Lan mourns his loss deeply. His son held a purchased rank, but never has held any office, but managed the domestic affairs of Lan at Chang Shuh. Woo remarked. I am more anxious for the reply than the Commissioner because I have many important matters of my

own on account of which I desire earnestly
to see His Excellency Cleang. as soon as possible.

Despatch No. 28. Exhibit No. 5.

1st Nov. 1856.

7

Saw Nee Nair. Acting Intendant at Shanghae &c &c has communicated respecting the request of America to deliberate upon Commercial regulations; it has accordingly been examined into, & is the cause for this reply. It arrived on the 14th of Oct. 1856

Sleang. Governor General of Kiangnan &c &c replies as follows. Respecting what you communicate upon the point that if the ministers of England & France had any intention of opening a separate negociation at Canton, they would certainly have previously informed the American Minister, and therefore there is no need of apprehension on that point. I have no doubt that such is the true state of the case; still all commercial discussions have hitherto been carried on together by the three powers. The present request by the Americans to have a commissioner appointed to confer with them, would certainly excite suspicions in the Emperor's mind. If on careful inquiry, you cannot learn the real facts of the case, I, the Governor General, cannot venture to memorialize to this effect, & therefore I let you know it immediately. You will also receive a reply from the Governor.

19th Oct. 1856.

I.

To.

Laou.

Intendant of Circuit for Sichaou, Tsung Kiang &

Taitsang —

(Envelope.) The Governor General of Liang Kiang seals & sends the enclosed single despatch from Tsin Yang - 19th Oct. 1856. 5 o'Clock. P.M. at the rate of 600 li a day to the Intendant of circuit at Shanghae —

Despatch No. 28. Exhibit No 6.
1st Nov. 1856.

Private letter of Governor Chaou to their honors Lan & Woo
20 Oct. 1856.

Let me state to you. I yesterday received the letter from the Governor General Keang, and the communication of both you, gentlemen, in one envelope. As to the request which the American Minister Parker makes about memorializing for him that a Commissioner be appointed, both Keang & I well know that Parker is an upright, peaceful & well disposed man; it would meet our views to make this request of the Emperor to have a Commissioner appointed to come to Kiang-nan to confer with him. On looking over the Commercial regulations, it appears that when the American Envoy Cushing sent Mr Webster & others to make them out, & they came before the Chinese Commissioner, there was a stipulation in the 34th article, "that as there might be some unimportant changes in the commerce & navigation which it might be desirable to make, after a period of twelve years had elapsed, the two countries should appoint officers to deliberate upon & settle them." When the provisions of the Treaty have been agreed upon they are to be observed by the officers, people & citizens of both countries; but the separate States cannot send their own envoys to enter into particular negociations. On the 2nd of the 7th moon in Taukwang's 24th year, at Macao,

in Kwangtung. a memorial was sent to His Late Majesty, & it was clearly settled that a high officer be specially appointed to attend to foreign commercial affairs, & the Governor General of Kwangtung was charged with all matters, relating to commerce, & the high officers of other provinces had nothing to do with them. If there were other things relating to the affairs of citizens however, a memorial could be sent up by the high provincial officers of those provinces nearest to the place. As His Majesty has decided these points in this way it is of all things requisite for us to follow the regulations of the treaty, and I think the Government will refuse to change the decision of his late Majesty.

It is for these reasons that the Governor General & I have, after mature reflection decided that a memorial will not be received, & that it will only needlessly delay the matter for forty or more days: perhaps too we shall excite his displeasure and so His Excellency the Governor General dares not venture to send the memorial. If you both can have a consultation with the American Minister you can request him to repair to Canton there to deliberate with the special officer upon these commercial affairs, & have a memorial sent to Court to have a

Commissioner appointed to go to Canton to negociate with him upon these matters, it will be well, & also be in accordance with the stipulation in the treaty. Then too, on the 30th day of the 10th moon of this year. (Nov. 27th 1856.) the period mentioned in the French Treaty will have expired, & the French will doubtless request a minister to be appointed to confer at Canton, upon that Treaty. I hope that you both will be able to settle this pleasantly with the American Minister, & represent all these things to him. For this I write, & hope you both enjoy daily happiness.

Your humble Servant

Cham. Fh. Shaw

20th October 1856.

To their honors
Law & Woo.

True translation

S. Wells Williams

9

Despatch No. 28 Exhibit 7
1st Nov. 1856
22nd Oct. 1856.

Private note from H. E. Woo to Leeang S.S.

I would state to you my views on the subject. The first petition was jointly drawn up by Lan & myself, & as was proper the reply was forwarded by me. In the second petition, the commands of Parker the American Minister, were communicated by Williams the Secretary of Legation, he stated the position of the French & English nations to this effect. Each of them will inform all the others of his intentions, so that if either the English or French Commissioners have any design of this nature, they will certainly inform the American Minister beforehand. Wherefore your anxiety on this head is quite groundless, & still more there is no reason for delay, which is much to be regretted & therefore I request that you will inform their Excellencies, the Governor & Governor General without delay, that they may announce it to Court, for the sooner an Imperial Commissioner arrives, the more advantageous it will be for both countries &c &c

This reply I handed to Lan, who thereupon informed their Excellencies of its contents. Lan also says that he has dispatched a messenger to hasten a reply, which will reach here about ten o'clock tomorrow by the regular postman. Still if so happened, that Sleang was to deliver over the numerous

details

details of his office on the 21st to his successor which may have delayed him.—

If then Mr Williams will come to my office tomorrow at 2 if we will go together to see Law at his office, or Law & I will both meet to-morrow at the Commissioners house, for a personal interview. The reply to our communication will doubtless arrive tomorrow & I hope you will soon let me know that I may inform Law,— who for such an important affair can very properly come to the Commissioners' at 2. p. m. to confer with him. If there is any public business, it can be very conveniently directly made known to Law, which will obviate the need of any letters being sent to my office. Please request that Mr Williams ask the American Minister, & let me know the result in your reply. With compliments. &c &c

22nd Oct. 1866. 6 Clk. P.M.

J.

Leang. Private interpreter.

Despatch No. 28. Exhibit No. 8.
1st Nov. 1856.

10

Shang Hae. 23rd Oct. 1856.

Instructions to Seeong. S.S.

1.- Say to their Excellencies Lan & Woo. that the Commissioner was pleased to learn from the note of Woo last evening, that the reply of His Excellency Eleang would doubtless come last evening or this morning.-

2.- That as I had not heard from them before 10 a.m. I was expecting to see them at 2 p.m.-

3.- Say I shall still be glad to receive the answer & to see their Excellencies at any hour before 2 o'c. this afternoon.-

4.- Or at 12 o'c. tomorrow or if not request them before 10 a.m. to name an hour for seeing Mr. Williams.-

Seeongs' Report. 23rd Oct.

11 When I first went he declined to see me, sent a man to say, that he did not want to see me but wished a written answer to his letter of last evening.- I insisted upon seeing him, went into his office & he desired me to give him an answer in writing, saying the Commissioner

is ready to receive him & Law at 2 o'cl p. m. — I said without the orders of the Commissioner, I cannot, — He then looked at his watch & said it is now nearly two o'cl, too late. I then took out the paper of instructions & read it to him. He said he would go immediately to Law, & if the Reply of the Vice Roy is ready they would both come before 5 o'cl. If not they will come tomorrow. Law sent a Messenger to Sucham to meet the messenger, this man has returned & says the postman with the answer is on his way. Via Kea Ting. — so he missed him, & the post man is due to day. — If Law does not come with him he will come himself. —

---

12 Memoranda. — 23 October 1856.

Soon after Seeong returned from the City H. E. Woo came to the Legation bringing the Reply of the Vice Roy of the 19th inst. — He said that H. E. Law would have come with him but was too unwell. (& the weather was very inclement) He said the Vice Roy's reply to my communication of the 29th ult. might be expected in four or five days. —

On reading the reply to Law, I asked why H. E. did not mention all his difficulties

when

when writing before? Ans.: They have reflected more upon the subject, & recollecting that the Emperor knew the 16 Articles, presented by the three Powers in 1854. difficulties might be presented by any one power, now acting alone at the North, & the other two at the South.—

Did I not tell you on a former occasion that the three powers will not negociate at Canton. you knew all about that point one month ago as well as now.—

Woo remarked.— Lan wishes to know if the Commissioner will now go back to Canton or not? ans. I wish first to understand from a clear translation the present state of the case. When I see where the rocks are I shall endeavor to steer clear of them.—

Woo expressed an objection to waiting thirty days more for Emperors answer, as, if unfavorable, it might be thought their object had been to detain me (till too late to go to North)

He was informed that it was stated distinctly to the Imperial Officers at the Pei Ho if they persisted in talking of Canton as the place of negociation, they might as well tear up the Treaties at once.—

Woo

Woo seemed mortified & dejected, & observed that five officers would rejoice to have seen the plan succeed. viz. The two Taouties. the Governor & Governor General, & the American Commissioner. -

Before leaving promised to send confidentially for my perusal a private letter from the Governor to Law & himself. -

---

13

Shang Hae. 24th Oct 1856.

His Excellency. Woo. sends for Leeong S.S. to come to his Court.

Instructions to Leeong S.S. Return the Vice Roys reply to Law of the 19th inst. with my compliments & thanks. say the American Commissioner is now anxiously awaiting the Reply of the Vice-Roy to his communication when he will decide upon his course. Call attention to the mis-statement about the three powers & say England negociated a treaty at Nanking. United States at Wang hia. - & France at Whampoa. - No French Minister went to the Peiho. That three friends may go together to the same Country, but each on his own errand. though they may be the same. they are independent How difficult to understand all? Has not the Commissioner opened his whole heart to them

5

and kept back nothing!
Report to me immediately on your return.-

14

Leeongs S.S.' Report — 24 Oct. 1856.

I explained the different points in the letter. Woo then read the letter of Governor Chaou, to Law & Woo, & asked it might not be known to Law, or any one.-

By this letter it is seen that the present Emperor will adhere to the policy of old Emperor, his father. Requested me to bring it back in person.-

15

Instructions to Leeong S.S. - 25th Oct. 1856.

1.- Return the letter of Chaou the Governor, to Law & Woo.
2.- Say to H.E. it is simply the old policy which has brought so much trouble upon China & which if persevered in will be its ruin.-
3.- Report my request that all that has passed be kept confidential, especially as no good result is likely to come of it.
4. Say I wait the Vice Roy's answer, when I shall decide my course.-

16

Leong's Report.— 25th Oct. 1856.

Woo said he had sent to Lan yesterday, requesting him to send a messenger to bring the answer of the Vice Roy.— I will go in person to day & request him to send another messenger. Particularly requested that Lan might not be informed that he had shewn me the Governors private letter to them. (which I regard as a sham.)

Woo gave his assurance that the late subject should be kept confidential, & professed mortification & regret at the failure of success to the measure.—

He inquired what the Commissioner intends to do, whether he will go back to Canton?

I replied he has said he waits the Vice Roy's answer, before determining his course.

He said I had better do so as it is according to treaty, & the Emperor will not do different from what his Father has settled.—

Despatch No. 28. Exhibit No. 9.
1st Nov. 1856.

19

(Copy)

Legation of the United States.
Shanghae. 27th October 1856.

Sir.

The Undersigned Commissioner & Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America. to China, on the 29th ult. had the honor to address Your Excellency. & to state that he was at Shanghae en route to Peking for the purpose of seeking a revision of the Treaty of Wang Hia. conformably to the 34th Article thereof. & also to seek redress of grievances sustained by the Government & Citizens of the United States. satisfaction for which had been sought in vain in the South of China;- that the two Taoutais. Lan & Woo, had requested him to defer his visit to the north & wait for Your Excellency to memorialize the Throne & request the Appointment of an Imperial Commissioner to meet him here. & that they would apply to Your Excellency, in a memorial to the Throne, to lay the subject before His Majesty. &c

Nearly one month has now elapsed & the Undersigned has not received Your Excellency's reply to this note. In the mean time he has seen

To. His Excellency

Keang.

Governor General of the Leang Keang Provinces

&c_____ &c_____ &c

a

a reply of Your Excellency to the Taoutae Lan. of the 2nd October. stating "let further & careful inquiries "be made of the American Minister & immediate reply "be sent me as to your Consultations & conclusions, for "I regard it has highly important & am desirous to "see it well forwarded & do not do this to hinder a "reference to Court." — His Excellency Governor Chaou, in his reply to the said Taoutae of the 5th October, states. "I yesterday received His "Excellency Sleang's letter, from which I see that "his views coincide with mine. I expect then "that you will again make further inquiries in "conjunction with Woo the late Intendant, as to "the real points, & inform me what you have "ascertained in a second petition. It is not "that I, the Acting Governor, or His Excellency "the Governor General; are at all afraid of sending "such a memorial to Court (that we make these "inquiries) &c." —

The Undersigned thought he discovered in these sentiments evidence that the measure proposed met Your Excellency's cordial approval, & in the expectation that it would succeed was willing still to defer proceeding to the North.

The Undersigned did not anticipate that after waiting seventeen days longer, Your Excellency

would raise new difficulties, as in Your Excellency's reply to the Taoutae Law of the 19th inst. that "If "on careful inquiry you cannot learn the real "facts of the case, I the Governor General, cannot "venture to memorialize to this effect &c" but such, in brief, are the facts of the case, and seeing one months time has thus been consumed to no purpose, they consenting to wait for Your Excellency to memorialize the time most suitable for visiting Peking is past, the Undersigned, as in duty bound hereby informs Your Excellency that his visit to the Capital will be postponed to the ensuing season, & requests Your Excellency to communicate the same to the Court at Peking, stating distinctly the cause of this postponement. —

The Undersigned Minister avails himself of the opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of his high consideration, & has the honor to remain.

Sir.

Your Excellency's
Obedient Servant.
Peter Parker

(L. S.)

Despatch No 20 Exhibit No 10.

1st Nov 1856

— Copy. —
No 206.

Superintendency of Trade.
Hong Kong 29th September 1856.

Sir,

I have now received instructions from Her Majesty's Government, which enable me to look for the assistance of the British Fleet in the Chinese seas for the purpose (in co-operation with the other Treaty Powers) of obtaining a revision of the existing Treaties with China. — I shall be glad to hear what are Your Excellency's present views & intentions, & as I am informed that the French Government have communicated to Lord Clarendon their disposition to co-operate by the conveyance of a Minister to the Northern ports. I have written to the Count de Lonicy for further information.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Excellency's
Most Obedient
Humble Servant.
(Signed.) John Bowring.

To His Excellency.
Dr Peter Parker
United States Commissioner to China.
&c &c &c

D.

Despatch No 29. Exhibit No 10

1st Novr 1856.

19.

Legation of the United States.

Shanghae. 14th Oct. 1856.

Sir,

I have the honor to be in receipt of Your Excellency's Despatch No 206, dated 29th Sept. from which I learn with great satisfaction that Your Excellency has now received instructions from Her Majesty's Government which enable Your Excellency to look for the assistance of the British Fleet in the Chinese Seas for the purpose (in co-operation with the other Treaty powers) of obtaining a revision of the existing Treaties with China. I am much gratified also with the fresh evidence of the disposition on the part of the French Government to co-operate with those of England & the United States on the occasion.

I hasten to acquaint Your Excellency briefly with my present views & intentions. On the return of Commodore J. Armstrong from Japan on the 13th ult. I learned that it would be impracticable for me to proceed to the North (unaccompanied with my Colleagues, the English & French Ministers) under circumstances calculated to secure success. Simultaneously the Chinese Authorities have

His Excellency

Sir John Bowring L.L.D.

H. B. Ms Plenipotentiary to China

&c &c &c

Hong Kong.

sought

sought me, asked my counsel in the present critical state of the Empire, with apparent earnestness and sincerity, & with great frankness I have explained to them the views of my Government, & their coincidence with the sentiments, so far as I am informed, of the other great Western Powers, & these views seem acceptable to them rather than objectionable.

In view of all the circumstances of my position I have made to them the proposition that I will consent to receive at Shanghae an Imperial Commissioner with Plenipotentiary Powers to revise the Treaty & redress grievances, on condition said Commissioner comes prepared to grant the residence of the United States Minister at Peking. To this Lan & Woo, the Acting & the late Taoutai have so far acceded as to petition the Governor & Governor General, Chaou & Cleang with the understanding that Their Excellencies in their Memorial to the Throne request the Appointment of an Imperial Commissioner Plenipotentiary, & that in private Communications the Cabinet Ministers be made acquainted with the condition on which alone I have consented to negociate here.

I have officially addressed the Governor General, upon the subject & am daily expecting

His Excellency's reply, in the interim I have seen the original & separate replies to the petitions of Law, from both the Governor & Governor General, indicating a cordial interest in the matter & their readiness to memorialize, but wishing first to know if there be no possibility that the English & French Governments may be seeking to open negociations in the South, & they have been informed that were any such purpose entertained it would doubtless have been communicated to me.—

I have caused to be conveyed to the Chinese Authorities "that it is my private opinion that in the event of a Minister Plenipotentiary coming to meet me at Shang Hae, I think it would be well if he also have full powers & instructions to negociate with the English & French Ministers, provided they are willing to negociate any where than at Peking, - which I do not know."

On receipt of the Vice-Roys communication if any new feature present I will inform Your Excellency.—

The opinion has been expressed that seeing the Russians are already at Peking, the Emperor will be willing to grant my sine qua non at Keying. The negociator of the Treaty of 1844 has been named as the personage likely to be entrusted with the Rescission

of it.

My experience with Chinese Character & diplomacy extends through too many years to allow me to be over sanguine in anything - Imperial officers may say or promise. - If, however, they are now acting in good faith something may be accomplished advantageous to all concerned. In the event of the present arrangement miscarrying I shall be absolved from implied obligations from the notices given to this Government, to proceed to the North this season, as the time intended for that object will have been occupied in communications with Peking, & the position of the United States Government will be rather strengthened than otherwise when next year it shall be prepared under more favorable auspices to negociate at the Capital.

Should an Imperial Commissioner in due course, come to Shang Hai, invested with the requisite powers. I need not assure Your Excellency the pleasure it will afford me should it comport with the instructions & views of the British & French Ministers to take part simultaneously by concurrent negociation to revise existing Treaties, & to place the relations amicable, commercial & political of our

respective

respective Governments with China upon a new & proper basis. But before the present arrangement can be carried into effect there will be ample time for further communications with Your Excellency & the Representative of the Imperial Government of France, & to learn in what light my position & prospects as now defined are regarded.

I have the honor to remain,

Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient Servant

Peter Parker

Despatch No 28. Exhibit - 10

1st Novr 1856

Copy.)

U. S. Legation.-

Shang Hae. 14th Oct. 1856.

Sir,

I have received a despatch from H. E. Sir John Bowring under date of the 29th Sept. from which I learn with great satisfaction that H. E. has now received instructions from Her Majesty's Government which enable him to look for the assistance of the British Fleet in the Chinese Seas for the purpose (in cooperation with the other Treaty powers) of obtaining a revision of the existing Treaties with China. I am still further gratified with fresh evidence of the disposition on the part of the French Government to cooperate with those of England & the U States on the occasion.-

In view of the mutual understanding so happily existing between these three powers as respects their concurrent policy towards China, I deem it incumbent on me to inform you briefly of my present position & prospects.- (For remainder of despatch see despatch to Sir John Bowring of this date.- commencing with "On the return of Commodore J. Armstrong &c.)

To the Honorable.

Count de Lourey.-

Chargé d'Affaires of France in China.-

&c &c &c

Macao.

(Here follows body of despatch, same as the one to Sir John Bowring of this date.-)

+ + + + + +

Should an Imperial Commissioner in due course, come to Shanghae invested with the requisite powers. I need not assure you the pleasure it will afford me should it comport with the instructions and views of the French + British Ministers to take part simultaneously by concurrent negociations to revise existing Treaties, + to place the relations, amicable, commercial, + political of our respective Governments with China upon a new + proper basis. But before the present arrangement can be carried into effect there will be ample time for further communications with you + the Representative of H. B. Majesty's Government, + to learn in what light my position + prospects as now defined are regarded.-

I have the honor to remain,

Sir.

Your Most Obed.t Serv.t

Peter Parker

Despatch No. 28. Exhibit 10 -

1st Nov. 1856.

21

221. Superintendency of Trade

Hongkong, 20th Oct. 1856

Sir

I have read with much interest your Excellency's dispatch of 14th inst. reporting the state of your Exc'y's negotiations with the Chinese authorities on the subject of a revision of Treaties In reply to the inquiry whether I should be willing to meet an Imperial Plenipotentiary at Shanghai in order there to discuss in communication with yourself and the plenipotentiary of the French Emperor, the conditions of a new treaty, I answer unhesitatingly Yes! provided the residence of a British minister is officially assented to, preliminary and antecedent to the discussion of other matters. But discussions whose object would be to evade and delay access to the Emperor's court, in my opinion, would only have an injurious effect

I have &c &c

(Signed) J Bowring

H.E. Dr Peter Parker

U S Commissioner to China

&c &c &c

Despatch No. 28. Exhibit No. 11.
1st Nov.r 1856.

(Copy.)

United States Legation.
Shang Hae 1st Nov.r 1856.

Sir.

Under date of the 14th ult. I had the honor to inform Your Excellency of the cause that had compelled me to abandon my purpose of proceeding to Peking the present season & to make known the circumstances & conditions under which I was willing to receive an Imperial Commissioner at Shang Hae should it please His Imperial Majesty to appoint one; at the same time stating my experience with Chinese Character & diplomacy did not permit me to be over sanguine in any promises Chinese officials might make, -

I have now to inform Your Excellency that all prospect of the plan defined in that communication succeeding is at an end, & I shall embark on the 3rd inst. in the U. S. S. Frigate "San Jacinto" for the South of China. I am assured the measure has not failed through indisposition on the part of Their Excellencies Keang the Governor

To. His Excellency.

Sir John Bowring L. L. D.
H. B. Ms Plenipotentiary in China. -
&c. &c. &c.
Hong Kong.

General

General, & Hobson the Governor, & other authorities who have taken an interest in the measure but as I apprehend from intimations having been received from Peking that their views were not reciprocated at Court, sufficient time having elapsed for communication with the Capital after the subject was broached, before a change became apparent in the policy of the Vice Roy & his Excellency's associates & advisers, in the matter. For under date of the 2nd Oct. H. E. Cheang expressed his desire to see the project well forwarded & that a point of reference be then made to me, was not from any reluctance on his part to memorialize the Throne, & Governor Chaou under date of 3d Oct. reiterated the same sentiment But under date of the 19th Their Excellencies wrote in a strain which convinced me that it was futile to pursue the measure further; & availing myself of the reason furnished by the fact of one month's time having thus been occupied rendering it too late to proceed this autumn to the north, I have written the Vice Roy acquainting him with the determination I had formed to

postpone the visit to the Capital to the ensuing season, requesting His Excellency to inform the Court distinctly of the cause of the postponement.

Anticipating the pleasure of soon seeing Your Excellency, when I shall have great satisfaction in renewing our conferences upon subjects of great & common interest to our respective Governments in China.

I have the honor to remain,

Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient

Humble Servant

Peter Parker

N.B. The above communication mutatis mutandis, was also addressed the Honble Count de Lancy. Chargé d'Affaires of France in China.

Macao.—

Despatch No. 28. Exhibit No. 12.
1st Nov. 1856

(Copy.)

Legation of the United States.
Shang Hae. 27th Oct. 1856.

Sir,

Your Excellency's Despatch of the 24th August relative to the letters of the President of the United States to His Majesty the Emperor of China has been duly received, in which Your Excellency states.-

I have received a letter from the Ministers of the Privy Council stating "as to this matter it is right it should revert to the Imperial Commissioner Governor General of the Leang Kwong duly to Memorialize the Throne &c manage that not being a subject which ought to be superintended by the Vice Roy of the Min & Chih Provinces it is inexpedient for us to present it in his behalf. We now take the original box & return it to be delivered over which will answer" &c

Your Excellency in receiving and forwarding these Letters of the President to the Emperor, acted in strict conformity to the 31st Article of the Treaty, & did only what was Your Excellency's duty to perform, but in the face of the treaty the Ministers of the Privy Council descend to the statement that the subject does not belong to Your Excellency to superintend, & indicate

the

the Imperial Commissioner at Canton as the proper personage to memorialize His Majesty upon the subject. according to the 31st Article of Treaty, it is competent for the Vice Roy, of either the Leang Kwang, the Min & Chih, or the Leeang Keang, to superintend the transmission of such communications.

Moreover the original letter of the President of the United States to the Emperor of China are returned both having been opened! The opening & returning the letters of the Chief Magistrate of one great Nation to the Sovereign of another are grave offences, & in this instance form new items in the long list of grievances of which my Government has to complain & are an indignity to the President & to the United States of America, & as behooves me I have made the same known to the Government at Washington.

Availing myself of the occasion to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my distinguished consideration. I have the honor. to remain.—

Sir.

Your Excellencys

Most Obed. Servt.

(L.S.) Peter Parker.

To. His Excellency,

Wang.—

Vice Roy of the Min & Chih Provinces.

&c. ——— &c. ——— &c

Rec. 21 Jany. Mr Dennis

Legation of the United States.

No 29. Macao 13th Novr 1856.

His Excellency

William L. Marcy.

Secretary of State. Washington.

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that I reached Hong Kong in the U. S. S. Frigate 'San Jacinto' Commodore James Armstrong, on the 8th & Macao on the 11th inst.

Under date of the 17th ult. His Excellency Sir John Bowring. Her Britannic Majestys Plenipotentiary advised me that having failed to obtain becoming satisfaction for the violation of Treaties by the seizure of Chinese subjects on board a British ship without the intervention of the Consular authorities. His Excellency had in co-operation with Her Majesty's Naval forces seized one of the Imperial war junks at Canton, & expressed his confidence of obtaining the required apology, without resort to ulterior measures. On my arrival at Hong Kong I was surprised to learn that hope had not been realized, & measures of the most stringent character had been resorted to, & were still being pursued with

great

great uncertainty of the issue.

I immediately wrote the Consul O. H. Perry Esqre to report to me at once the state of affairs at Canton, & in his despatch received on the 10th inst. you will find a pretty full account of what had transpired up to that date. Exhibit A. No. 6. The local journals will also furnish much information upon the subject.—

The immediate cause of this extraordinary state of things was the taking of twelve Chinese subjects from an English Lorcha, without reference to the British Consul. Apology for the same was demanded & declined. The spirit manifested by the Imperial Commissioner, as usual, was not courteous or satisfactory.— With a view to adjust the difficulty daily becoming more serious, Admiral Sir. M Seymour demanded an interview with His Excellency Yëë within the city, when a new the subject of the right of entrance to the City was brought forward by Yëë, in a manner that brought the two Governments to an issue. the one contending that the right had been indefinitely abandoned, & the other appealing to the records to prove it had not been & never

would

would be.

I saw Sir John Bowring repeatedly while at Hong Kong, who communicated to me very freely upon the policy he was pursuing, that the British Government cannot recede from the position it has taken, but in the measures to be adopted moderation and firmness will go hand in hand. The Bogue forts will be the next object of attention. By last accounts five British men of war were taking their position before them, & if the demands of the Admiral are not acceded to within a given time, they will probably be destroyed.

A very serious crisis has arrived, & unless the Imperial Commissioner succumb, it is impossible to foretel the issue.

My first impression of duty on arrival at Hong Kong, was to proceed at once to Canton, but on reflection concluded that I had better defer till after the departure of the Mail. Commodore Armstrong having landed me at Macao on the 11th proceeded to Whampoa in the "San Jacinto" with that Frigate, & the Sloops of war, "Portsmouth" & "Levant" will

be

be able to afford our countrymen all the protection they may require. I respectfully invite your attention to the confidential note addressed to Commodore Armstrong on the 11th inst. Exhibit A. No 7. , as indicating the policy I deem it wise to pursue under the circumstances.

Exhibits A. B. C. & D. embrace the correspondence with, or relating to, the ports of Canton, Amoy, Fuh Chow & Shang Hae, the past month, which I am unable to accompany with the comments I desire. The imperative demand for prisons is again urged upon the Government. Exhibit A. No 2 Exhibit B. The Criminal Jackson at Shang Hae is now lodged in the British Jail. In relation to Fuh Chow, the payment of duties is resumed, and I am encouraged to hope that our difficulties at that port will soon be adjusted. The Consulate at Ningpo is again vacant. Exhibits D. No 8

If practicable, I will address you a supplementary note with any additional intelligence that may be received before the mail closes.

5

Respectfully

With sentiments of esteem & distinguished consideration. I have the honor to remain

Sir.

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient Servt

Peter Parker

Index.

Despatch No. 29. — 13th November 1856.

		Canton			
A	—	Sir John Bowring to P. Parker	23	Sept.	1856
"	1	P. Parker to Sir John Bowring	9	Oct.	"
"	2	O. H. Perry to P. Parker	17	"	"
"	3	Sir John Bowring to P. Parker	17	"	"
"	4	Do Do	19	"	"
"	5	P. Parker to O. H. Perry	8	Nov.	"
"	6	O. H. Perry to P. Parker Recd	10	"	"
"	7	P. Parker to Commodore J. Armstrong	11	"	"
		Amoy.			
B	—	P. Parker to T. H. Hyatt. —	17	Oct.	1856
		Fuh Chow.			
C	—	Sir John Bowring to P. Parker	27	Sept.	"
"	1	P. Parker to Sir J. Bowring	10	Oct.	"
"	2	Caleb Jones to P. Parker	2	"	"
"	3	Do Do	4	"	"
"	4	P. Parker to C. Jones	18	"	"
"	5	C. Jones to P. Parker	11	"	"
"	6	Sir J. Bowring to P. Parker	10	"	"
"	7	P. Parker to C. Jones	28	"	"
"	8	Sir J. Bowring to P. Parker	20	"	"
"	9	Do Do	24	"	"
"	10	H. D. Wang to P. Parker	12	"	"

C	11	H. L. Wang to P. Parker	13	Oct.	1856
"	12	H. L. Wang's Proclamation	14	"	"
"	13	P. Parker to C. Jones	1	Nov.	"
"	14	Do Do	3	"	"

Shanghae

D	—	R. C. Murphy to P. Parker	30	Sept.	1856
"	1	P. Parker to R. C. Murphy.	2	Oct.	"
"	2	Sir John Bowring to P. Parker	4	Nov.	1856

Despatch No 13 Enclosure A.

13 Novr 1856

Copy

No 198

Superintendency of Trade

Hong Kong 23rd Sept 1856

Sir,

I have the honor to forward to Your Excellency copies of a protest of the United States Consul in Canton, a counterprotest of the Mortgagee, & revocation of the first protest of the United States Consul, - in reference to a property leased by the British Authorities to Mr Gideon Nye Jr.

In the preliminary stage of this affair, I did not think it necessary or desirable to interfere, but as important questions are involved in this correspondence. I hope Your Excellency will not deem it unbecoming in me to express my regret that the careful examination of the papers connected with the deed of assignment which has led to the withdrawal of the injunction & to the declaration that there was neither right in law or in equity to justify the interference, should not have preceded the action of the United States Consul.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most Obed. Humble Servant.

(Signed) John Bowring

IV

United States Consulate.
3rd September 1856.

To whom it may concern

Whereas Messrs Rufell & Co and Messrs James Purdon & Co as assignees of the Estate of Nye Brothers & Co have applied to me the undersigned Consul to enjoin the sale which the Corporation known in this place as the "Oriental Bank Corporation" which said Corporation by their Agent who subscribes himself "Samuel Gray" Manager in China of the Oriental Bank Corporation have notified them the said Messrs Rufell & Co & Messrs James Purdon & Co assignees as aforesaid, that he the said Sam. Gray Manager of the Oriental Bank as aforesaid intends to make a sale of certain real property belonging to the said Estate of Nye Brothers & Co & particularly a certain lot with the buildings thereon known as Lot (No 7.) number seven, in what is called & generally known as the "former foreign Factory Ground" in Canton, said lot of ground with the building or buildings thereon being at present occupied by Messrs Augustine Heard & Co & Messrs Lyall Still & Co

Now therefore be it known that

I, Oliver Hazard Perry, Consul of the United States of America at the port & City of Canton, China, do hereby notify all & every person or persons concerned, that whereas the Treaty entered into between the Government of the United States of America & that of the Ta-tsing Empire, signed at Wang hia on the 3d day of July 1844, gave full entire & exclusive jurisdiction to the Authorities of the Government of the United States of America, over the person & property of all Citizens of the United States of America resident in China, that any sale or transfer in any shape manner or form whatsoever of the real Estate aforementioned, without the assent of the Assignees of Nye Brothers & Co or authority for the same given by the Undersigned Consul or his successors in office, will be considered by the Government of the United States of America null & void, & the undersigned Consul of the United States of America hereby protests in the name of his Government against any person or persons, whether officials of the Chinese Empire or of any Foreign Power exercising or attempting to exercise any jurisdiction whatsoever or wheresoever in China, over the person or property of any American Citizen resident in China, and I hereby notify all parties interested that the Government of the United States of America will

hold

hold all & every person or persons responsible for all damage that may result by reason of their attempting to dispose or disposing of property belonging to the Citizens of the United States resident in China, without the Authority of the Consul of the United States of America.

Signed Oliver H. Perry.
Consul of the United States of America in the Port of Canton. China

True Copy.
(Signed) Geo. Morrison

Copy.

Canton. 10th September 1856.

3

To all whom it may concern.

Whereas the Government of the United States, by their Representative at this Port, who subscribes himself "Oliver H. Perry. Consul of the United States of America at the Port of Canton. China" did upon the third day of September instant officially publish & circulate among the

Residents

Residents at this Port a document purporting to be a protest against certain acts alleged to be about to be done by the undersigned in the name & on the behalf of the Oriental Bank Corporation, which document the Undersigned believes to be equally erroneous in its statement of facts & in its assumption of privileges — Now therefore I do solemnly declare that the lot with the buildings thereon described in the said protest as property belonging to the Estate of Kye Brothers & Co. does not belong to the said Estate, but is the property of the said Oriental Bank Corporation by virtue of an assignment by way of mortgage in favor of the said Corporation the right of resumption of which has been forfeited, & I further declare that the sd. Oriental Bank Corporation can give a good & valid title to the said property according to the law, & that the Consul of the United States of America has no right or power to interfere with or restrain the sale of the said property either by virtue of the Common Law of England or America, of the Lex Loci or of the Jus Gentium, & still less by virtue of the Treaty of Wang Hia, which gives him jurisdiction over the property of American subjects in China, which the property in question is not, wherefore I protest against all illegal in-

interference

interference with my proceedings in this matter either by the said Oliver H. Perry, or by any other person or persons whomsoever, & I hereby notify & warn all parties attempting any such interference or doing any act calculated to depreciate the value of the property in question, that I will proceed against them therefor according to the Law, & forasmuch as I believe that the document aforesaid issued by the said Oliver H. Perry at the instance of "Messrs "Russell & Co. and Messrs James Purdon & Co "assignees of Nye Brothers & Co" is calculated to depreciate the value of the said property. I hereby declare that I hold him & them jointly and severally liable, as the law may direct, for all loss damage or detriment that may arise from the issuing of the said document.

(Signed) Sam. Gray.
Manager in China of the
Oriental Bank Corporation.

Thus done declared & protested at H. B. Mc. Consulate Canton, by Samt. Gray aforesaid this 10th day of September A.D. 1856.

Before me.

(L.S.)

Signed. Harry S. Parkes.
H. B. Mc. Consul. officiating at Canton.

"Tatte Copy.
(Signed) Geo. Morrison.

4

—Copy.— U. S. Consulate.
Canton. 17th Sept. 1856.

Messrs Russell & Co
and
James Purdon & Co
} Assignees.—

and

Samuel Gray Esquire
Manager of the Oriental Bank Corporation.—

Gentlemen.

I have carefully examined all the papers connected with the deed of assignment by way of Mortgage executed on the 1st day of Feby. 1856. by Gideon Nye Jr. an American Citizen resident in Canton, China unto the "Oriental Bank Corporation" carrying on business in Canton China of a certain lot of ground designated as Lot No 7. situate in the former Foreign Factory grounds. & I have to inform you that.—

I am satisfied that according to the terms set forth in said deed. the legal as well as the equity right of redemption. which did exist in the mortgage as also his Assignees has been barred and forfeited by his or their own default. by not providing moneys to meet the payment of two certain Bills of Exchange for the sum of seven

thousand

thousand three hundred and thirty six pounds Sterling as conditioned in the said deed, & the Undersigned hereby, you & all others whom it may concern that he has withdrawn his injunction, & any & every objection expressed or implied in his Official Circular, dated the 3rd Instant against the 'Oriental Bank Corporation' proceeding to sell the aforementioned property by way of preclosure of the above mentioned Mortgage.—

Signed Oliver H. Perry.
U. S. Consul.

True Copy.
Geo. Morrison.

Despatch No. 29. Exhibit A. 1.

13 Novr. 1856.

5

Legation of the United States.

Shanghae. 9th Oct. 1856.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's despatch No. 198. under date of the 23rd ults. forwarding copies of a protest of the U. S. Consul in Canton, a counter protest of the Mortgagee & a revocation of the first protest of the U. S. Consul, in reference to a property leased by the British Authorities to Mr. Gideon Nye Jr. &c. (& by the latter mortgaged to British subjects).

I fully concur in the sentiment expressed by Your Excellency that important questions are involved in the correspondence, & that from the anomalous position in which the subjects & citizens of our respective countries are placed in China, grave questions affecting their rights & privileges are liable frequently to arise, which should not be hastily disposed of. Questions for the determination of which no Lex Loci may have been established, & to which neither the common law of England or America, the jus Gentium, or existing Treaties may specially &c apply.

His Excellency.

Sir John Bowring. L.L.D.

Her Britannic Majesty's Plenipotentiary to China

&c ——— &c ——— &c

The

The United States Consul was correct in his construction of the Treaty of Wang Hia, so far as it respects the sole jurisdiction of the Government of the United States over its Citizens in China, but in the present instance that was not the point at issue but rather the validity of the title acquired by British subjects to certain property which formerly belonged to an American Citizen. Another question is possibly involved, but which does not appear to have been raised; viz whether the legal process of disposing of the Mortgaged estate to satisfy the lien upon it should be conducted by the Authorities of the Government to which the Mortgagee or the Mortgager, belongs?

It affords me satisfaction to perceive that when the Consul detected his error the withdrawal of his injunction was as frank, as his protest had been decided.—

I regret with Your Excellency that the careful & impassioned examination of the merits of the case had not preceded action & counter action in the premises.—

I have the honor to be, Sir.

Your Excellency's

Humble Servant

Peter Parker

Despatch No. 29. - Exhibit A. 2. -

6

13 Nov.r 1856.

United States Consulate.

Canton. 17.th Oct. 1856.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch enclosing a sealed communication addressed to the Governor General, which I sent into the City.

Up to within a few days back nothing particular or unusual had occurred. - About a week since, the Mandarins boarded an English Lorcha anchored off the factories, took nine Chinamen a portion of her crew prisoners - the Mandarins alleging that they were Rebels. -

The British Consul demanded their Return, they returned six men, but positively refuse to return the other three, the Consul wrote in again but has received no answer, it is stated that the Mandarins have beheaded one of the men. These are the facts generally reported in the garden, & I think they are pretty near the truth. Every thing is kept very secret at the British Consulate. -

The British War Steamer the "Coromandel" is anchored off the factories with

a

a large guard of marines on board: the Steam Frigate "Encounter" inside but near the barrier. the Frigate "Sybille" at Whampoa. it is reported that the Admiral is at the Bogue in the Ship of the Line. "Calcutta." What will be the finale of it all, it is impossible to say.

The "Portsmouth" is at Anchor at Whampoa.

I am, Sir

Your Most Obedient Servant

Signed, Oliver H. Perry

U. S. Consul.

His Excellency.

Peter Parker

U. S. Commissioner

&c &c &c

True Copy.

Thos. Reynolds

7

Copy. United States Consulate.
Canton, 17th October 1856.

Sir.

I have the honor to enclose herewith, a copy of the finding & sentence of the U. S. Consular Court for this Port, in the case of the United States versus James Mc Lean, alias Curley, Mariner convicted of Manslaughter.—

You will observe, that the sentence states that the prisoner shall be confined in such jail or place as the Commissioner may direct.

You are well aware that there is no jail or place here wherein I could confine the prisoner, & it is usual in all sentences to state where, or in what jail the prisoner shall be confined. this I could not do, because there is no jail or place of confinement within my jurisdiction in which I could place him, and I thought that you might obtain Commodore Armstrong's consent to have him confined on board one of the men of war, & in case the Commodore objected, you might obtain the consent of His Excellency Governor Guimarres to allow him to be confined in the Macao Jail, as I am informed His Excelleney has before allowed

American

American prisoners to be confined there.-

At present, I have the prisoner confined on board W. Cork's floating Chop.- W. Cork has kindly consented to allow him to remain there for a short time.

I hope that Your Excellency will bring this case to the notice of the Department that it may help to convince the Government of the necessity of placing the means at the disposal of the Consul, to execute & enforce the laws, & carry out at least the spirit of the treaty -

I am. Sir.
Your Most Obedient Servt.
(Signed) Oliver H. Perry.
U. S. Consul.

His Excellency:
Peter Parker.
U. S. Commissioner
&c &c &c

True copy.
Thos. Reynolds.

6

(Copy.)

I. Oliver H. Perry Consul of the United States of America at the Port of Canton China, having heard tried the case of the United States versus James McLean alias Curley, a Citizen of the United States of America and Mariner, indicted by a Grand Jury, specially called with having killed one John Williams a Mariner, do find the accused James McLean alias Curley, Mariner, guilty of Manslaughter, he having in a heat of passion, in a cruel & unjustifiable manner, without the design to effect death, taken the life of one John Williams, Mariner.—

And I. Oliver H. Perry Consul as aforesaid do therefore sentence him the said I. McLean alias Curley, to be confined and imprissoned for the space of two years from this date in such Jail or place as the Commissioner may select.—

In testimony whereof I the said Consul have hereunto set my hand & affixed my seal of Office at the United States Vice Consulate at Whampoa, on this

L. S.

15

15th day of October. A.D. 1856.
signed Oliver H. Perry.
U. S. Consul.

true Copy.
Thos. J. Reynolds

No. 9

We the undersigned Jurors and associates called into hear & try the case of the United States versus James Mc Lean alias, Curley, a Citizen of the United States & Mariner, indicted by a Grand Jury, specially called, with having killed one John Williams a Mariner, do unanimously concur with Oliver H. Perry Consul of the United States of America at the Port of Canton, in finding the said James Mc Lean alias Curley. Mariner guilty of Manslaughter he having in a heat of passion in a Cruel & unjustifiable manner without the design to effect death, taken the life of one John Williams. Mariner.

And we the Jurors & associates as aforesaid do further concur with the said Oliver H. Perry Consul as aforesaid in sentencing the said James Mc Lean alias Curley. to be confined & imprisoned

for

for the space of two years from this date in such Jail or place as the Commissioner may direct.—

In faith whereof we hereunto sign our names on this 15th day of October A.D. 1856.

(Signed) I. Henry Smith
(") Chas. H. Pulsipher
(") L. B. Kenny
(") Samuel Hoaltman.

True Copy.
Thos. J. Reynolds.

Despatch no 29. Exhibit A. 3

13th Nov: 1856.

Copy.
No 217

Superintendency of Trade.
Hong Kong. 17th Oct. 1856.

10

Sir.

In furtherance of that friendly accord which it is so desirable the Treaty powers should preserve in their intercourse with the Chinese Authorities. I have to advise Your Excellency that having failed to obtain becoming satisfaction for the violation of Treaties by the seizure of Chinese subjects on board a British ship without the intervention of the Consular functionaries. I have in cooperation with Her Majesty's Naval forces seized one of the large Imperial war Junks at Canton. I trust this step will prevent the necessity of ulterior measures, and trust I shall obtain the required apology for what has taken place & security against its repetition

I have the honor to be. Sir,

Your Excellency's
Most Obedient. Humble Servant.
(Signed.) John Bowring

His Excellency
Dr. Peter Parker.
U. S. Commissioner to China.
&c &c &c

True Copy.
Jno. J. Reynolds

Despatch No. 29. Exhibit A 4

13th Nov. 1856.

219

11

Superintendency of Trade

Hongkong. 19th Oct. 1856

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge your Excellency's dispatch of the 9th inst. on the subject of the notification of the United States' consul at Canton in reference to a question of property then under litigation, but as I understand subsequently settled.

There can be no doubt of the absolute and exclusive jurisdiction of your authorities over citizens of the United States, which as you correctly state was not the issue raised in this matter – the question was solely one of title to certain property. I earnestly wish some means could be found for the amicable adjustment of all those international questions which are not provided for by treaties, or by leges loci, and especially that in commercial matters (such as those connected with insolvency) the proceedings of the Consular courts of the Treaty powers could be assimilated. As the constitu-

H. E. Dr Peter Parker

U. S. Commissioner to China

&c &c

constitution of these courts is an act of supreme authority, I am afraid it is only by an understanding between our respective governments, that an efficient remedy could be provided.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Excellency's Most Obt
humble Servant
(Signed) J Bowring

Despatch No. 29. Exhibit A 5.—

18th Nov. 1856.

(Copy.)

12.

United States Legation.

Hong Kong. 8th Nov. 1856.

Sir.

I avail myself of the earliest moment to inform you of my arrival at this place, & to request that you will at once report to me the state of affairs at Canton generally & particularly so far as the safety of the life & property of American Citizens is concerned.—

Commodore Armstrong now contemplates proceeding to Whampoa in the "San Jacinto" at the earliest moment practicable after taking in supplies of Coal & provisions & it is not improbable I may decide to come up by the same opportunity. say on Monday or Tuesday.—

In haste

Very Respectfully

Your Obed. Servt.

Peter Parker Jr.

O. H. Perry Esqre

U. S. Consul

Canton

Despatch No. 29. Exhibit A. 6.

13 Novr. 1856.

13.

(Copy.) United States Consulate.

Canton

[Received Hong Kong. 10th Novr. 1856.]

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that on the 21st inst. I received from Harry S. Parkes Esqre H. B. M.s Consul a copy of an official Circular which he had that morning addressed H. E. "Yeh," Imperial Commissioner & Vice Roy of the two Provinces. the purport of it was that he had been instructed by H. M.s Plenipotentiary to inform His Excellency that 24 hours to count from the delivery of the communication are allowed to His Excellency to accede to H. M.s Plenipotentiary's demands, as made in Consul Parkes's letter of the 8th & 12 inst. & in the event of these demands not being complied with within the time named H. M.s Naval officers will then have recourse to force to compel complete satisfaction. The demands contained in Consul Parkes's communication of the 8th & 12th inst. is that H. E. the Imperial Commissioner, should return twelve Chinese (part of the crew of the Lorcha "Arrow")

and

and place them on board the Arrow:—
On the receipt of Consul Parke's Circular which was at about 8. p.m. I immediately addressed a communication to Commander Foote, Commdg. the H. S. Ship "Portsmouth" then lying at Whampoa, enclosing a copy of Consul Parke's circular, & I am happy to bear witness to Commander Foote's promptness & dispatch, by his arriving next morning at 9. o/c with 80. men (fully armed & equipped) & one 12 pound Howitzer, thus giving evidence of the promptness of our Naval officers in protecting American lives & property abroad. Commander Foote immediately posted guards in & about the American Hongs, & also with great propriety placed a guard at the French Consulate, which act of courtesy has been fully acknowledged by H. I. Majesty's Secretary of Legation, Count Rookowski & by H. I. Majesty's Vice Consul Mr. Bovet.

The demands of Consul Parke's not being complied with, within the time specified, the English Admiral on the 24th inst. proceeded to demolish several of the forts, viz. the Barrier fort, the

Macao passage fort, & the Birds nest fort as it is called, also in the Macao passage, the red fort opposite the Factories, & the Dutch folly forts.

On the afternoon of this day I addressed a communication to H.E. "Yeh" demanding protection for American lives & property as prescribed in the 19th article of the treaty of Wang Hia to which on the 24th Inst. I received a reply, a translated copy I herewith enclose marked - a. - On the afternoon of the 25th at about 1.0 P.M the Chinese braves made an attack upon the English Marines stationed at the head of old China Street, one or two vollies of musketry soon dispersed them leaving two dead bodies behind. To day I addressed H.E. a communication, demanding from him an explanation & Apology for the gross outrage & insult that had been offered to the Americans by the Chinese Officer in command of the forts at Heang Shang in firing several shots at the unarmed American Steamer "Cum Fa" On the 31st I received a reply from His Excellency stating that the fort was not

a government fort, but that he had issued his orders to have the matter fully investigated, & that when the reply is received, he will again address me — Copies of the correspondence I herewith enclose, marked B

On the 26th & 27th all remained quiet on the evening of the 27th Commander Smith of the "Levant" with a reinforcement of about 80 Sailors & marines arrived. I cannot speak in too high terms of the promptness & despatch of Commander Smith, who on his arrival at Hong Kong & learning the danger to which his fellow countrymen at Canton were exposed immediately got his vessel under weigh & proceeded to this port

October 28th — The English opened a heavy fire from the Dutch folly fort (in which fort they had placed some heavy guns,) upon H.E. the Governor Generals Yamun or Palace setting fire to the buildings immediately intervening towards dusk they ceased firing. during the day the English were also occupied in tearing down, the houses in the rear of the Factories, as a precaution against fire.

October 29th The fire which was commenced on the evening of the 28th continued throughout

the

the night, laid bare the City wall for a distance of two or three hundred yards.—

October 29th. At 7. a.m. H. M. Stn "Encounter" opened fire upon the Yamun, at 2.15. p.m the English landed a force of between two & three hundred strong. at 2.40. P. M they mounted the breach & kept up a brisk fire of musketry on the Chinese Soldiery, who only returned it long enough to kill one marine & wound six others. at about 3. p.m. the English had full possession of the Governors Palace, after blowing up one of the gates of the City, & a portion of the wall surrounding the Palace. I arrived upon the ground about a half an hour after the walls were carried. I found the English in full possession of the place the officers, the Soldiers & the Sailors helping themselves to what they pleased. I met His Excellency Admiral Seymour within the palace who kindly gave me permission to take a few Articles as a memento of the occurrences of the day — at 6. p.m. the storming party retired, a fresh fire broke out consuming all the houses on the water side of the wall, & I am sorry to say two houses occupied by

American Missionaries. viz. Revd. Jno B. French. & Revd – Preston.

Oct. 30th & 31st. Every thing remained quiet the English firing only an occasional shot to prevent the Chinese stopping up the breach. Novr. 1st I received to day from H.E. two despatches, one, stating that he had been informed that several American Men of war had entered the inner waters, & that as the United States & China had long been on friendly terms, that he hoped they would not be allowed to assist the English. I immediately replied that the American men of war had entered the inner waters, & were here solely to protect the lives & property of American Citizens, to defend their rights, & to resent any insult that might be offered to the American Flag. The other communication, stated, that as the English & Chinese were engaged in fighting, he would not be at leisure to protect the residences of American Citizens. I drew up a reply protesting against the Chinese Government in failing to perform its treaty obligations, to protect the lives & property of American

Citizens & holding the Chinese responsible for all damages suffered. & to be suffered, by reason of said violation. Not having any person able to translate into Chinese, this document (Mr. French having gone to Macao) I sent it in English to which I have not yet received a reply. I also this day addressed H.E. two other communications, one informing him that two American Vessels had applied for their clearance papers, & that unless he immediately appointed some person to receive the duties as required by the 13th Article of the Treaty, I should allow all American Ships to proceed to sea without the payment of duties. The other requesting His Excellency to inform me whether in his proclamation of the 29th ult. offering a reward of $30.00 for every Foreigner's head he intended to include Americans. & if not that he would issue a proclamation to that effect & furnish me with a copy. both these communications, I was obliged to send him in English, to neither of which have I yet received a reply.

Nov. 3d at noon the English commenced firing upon the public buildings, in the

old or Tartar City, firing from Fort Folly & H. M. Stos. "Encounter" & "Sampson". The bombardment lasted for at least five hours At 11.30. p.m. the Chinese made an attempt to blow up the Club house, in which was quartered over three hundred English troops by drifting a Sampan full of powder, with a slow match attached, under the building fortunately the explosion did little or no damage, merely burning slightly one of the Soldiers

Nov.r 4th at 7. a.m. the English attacked the French folly fort which was crowded with Chinese, near which twenty three war junks were anchored. after about two hours hard fighting, the fort & junks were taken possession of, & the latter destroyed Nov.r 5th 6th & 7th. Every thing remained perfectly quiet. In the night of the 7th the Chinese sent down the river several fire ~~junks~~ rafts, which fortunately did no damage, though several vessels were obliged to leave their moorings.

I have thus given you a summary of the principal events of the last two weeks, what is to be the result of all this, it is impossible to

conjecture. at present all trade is paralyzed nothing whatever doing. the Chinese will not even ship off the Merchandize, that was contracted for, ready for shipment at the time of the commencement of the difficulties.

Before closing this despatch, it is proper that I should bring to the notice of your Excellency the admirable discipline & the zeal displayed by our Naval & Marine officers & men, in protecting American lives & property, and upholding the character of American officers seamen & marines.—

I have the honor to be
Sir.
Your Most Obed. Servt
Signed. Oliver H. Perry.

To. His Excellency.
Peter Parker.
U. S. Commissioner
&c &c &c

Copy. 14 Encl. A. 6.

Yeh Governor General of the two Kwang &c &c
makes the following communication. On the
24th inst. I received the Consuls communication, re-
questing protection for the persons & property of American
Citizens. I immediately sent a perspicuous reply
stating that although the English Consul Mr. Parkes
had destroyed our forts & wounded our Soldiers and
people, as the English & Chinese Governments had
long been on terms of friendship, I had acted with
the utmost forbearance. To my great surprise
Mr. Consul Parkes, has now in the most outrageous
manner commenced an attack upon the Provincial
City. The people, both within & without the
City are greatly enraged & excited, & the matter will
certainly lead to a general engagement on both sides.
Fearing that when the troops are
engaged in fighting, I shall not be at leisure
to protect the residences of American Citizens,
I purposely send this communication, to notify
you that if any damage is sustained, you must
hold Mr. Consul Parkes responsible, & require him
to make it good. On this account I
send this communication.

To O. H. Perry Esqr.
U. S. Consul
27th Oct. 1856 &c &c &c

True Copy.
Thos. J. Reynolds.

(Copy.)

14

Yeh Governor General of the two Kwang, &c. &c.

Issues this proclamation, since the English Barbarians have made an attack upon the Provincial City, wounding the troops & people in the most ruthless manner, I as in duty bound, issue this proclamation, that you all may unitedly seize and destroy.— For this purpose I issue my commands to all the troops & people in the Province, shopmen & citizens that you may fully understand. You must with united strength & heart assist the troops & Militia.— Every English rascal that you see, coming on shore, or on board of the ships, making trouble you must exert yourselves & seize.— For every one that is killed in this manner,* no matter who, we promise a reward of $ 30.00.— The dead must be brought to my office, for examination.

Do not slight this proclamation Let every one tremblingly obey, without opposition.

27th Oct. 1856.

* This sentence is somewhat obscure in the original, but seems to include the people of all countries.

True Copy.

Thos. Reynolds

(Copy.)

Yeh Governor General of the two Kwang &c &c

Herewith states that, having received the Consul's communication asking for protection for American Citizens &c, I immediately on the 24th inst. sent in a reply.-

Afterwards, when the English opened their guns upon the City, seeing that the people were very much enraged, & fearing that I should not be at leisure to afford protection, on the 27th inst. I addressed another communication to the Consul, notifying him to this effect.-

For successive days, the English have been engaged in attacking the City, & I have just received a petition from the Gentry & people, informing me that American War Ships have confusedly entered the inner waters. As China & the United States have always been on terms of friendship, this assisting of the English ought not to be.- I therefore purposely send this communication to the Consul that he may immediately investigate the matter, and rigidly repress & manage everything of the kind. Hoping to receive a speedy reply, I send this necessary communication.

To. D. H. Perry Esqre.
Consul of the U.S.A
&c &c

31st Oct. 1856.

True Copy.
Tho. Reynolds.

15/N

1

Yeh . Imperial Commissioner . Governor General of the Two Kwangs &c &c —
in reply.

I am in receipt of representations of this date in which you inform me that your vessels of war are here only for the purpose of protecting the lives & property of American citizens . & that they have taken no part whatever with the British force in its attack on the city .

On the subject of protection to which your letter adverts I have expressed my self fully , as you will find if you refer to it , in my letter of the 27th ulto Our two nations have been many years on good terms . it behoves us of course to abide by the Treaty in all our proceedings . at present however the whole city population is in such a state of tumult & indignation , so determined , that one side or the other , the English or themselves shall succumb . that I fear I shall be unable to take proper care of your mercantile community . & think it therefore best that as soon as possible they should move out of harms way . It is certainly owing to the violence and

andecency of the British that your countrymen are subjected to these alarms tricks. My power is by no means inadequate to your protection.

A neceparry reply.

addressed to.— O. H. Perry.

U. S. Consul.

Heen Fung 6th year. 10th moon 7th day.—

4th November 1856.

Translated by Thomas Wade

Chinese Secretary to H. B. Mo Govt

True Copy.

Thos J. Reynolds

Despatch No. 29. Exhibit A. 7. —

16

13th Nov. 1856.

Confidential. —

Legation of the United States.
Macao. 11th Nov. 1856.

Sir,

I had contemplated accompanying you to the Provincial City on account of the critical position of political & commercial affairs growing out of the present relations of the Governments of Great Britain & China but in view of the early departure of the Mail & my pressing engagements in the interim, I have decided to remain here for the present. It is however a source of satisfaction that it your purpose at once to proceed thither, with the Naval force at your disposal I feel confident the interests of our countrymen will be well guarded so far as the security of their person & property may be endangered by the measures to which Her Britannic Majesty's Civil & Naval authorities have resorted to obtain redress of grievances on the part of the Imperial Authorities of China. It is not unlikely the latter may appeal to our sympathies, multiply their professions of friendship & try to elicit an expression of sentiment unfavorable to the English if possible destroy unity of sentiment & policy on the part of the three great western Powers.—

In view of the conduct of Chinese

officials

officials from South to North, towards those of the United States the past ten years, their reference to our amicable relations now comes with but little effect. We shall best consult our true interest by steadily maintaining concurrent action & policy with the English & French Governments & in every legitimate way sustaining each other in the prosecution of our just rights under Treaties. —

It is a severe lesson the Imperial Commissioner is now receiving, & the natural consequence of his perverseness & contumely. The end at which the British Government is now aiming, so far as I am informed, will be as beneficial to the Chinese as to the foreigner. — In the progress of events now occurring there are questions that may call for the intervention of the principles of international law to determine & will form the subjects of careful consideration hereafter: —

The Imperial Commissioner has already attempted to ignore responsibility for what is now transpiring, but it will become my duty to inform His Excellency that the Government of the United States will hold that of China responsible for all its treaty engagements as respects security of person & property.

In all matters that specifically

concern one of the Treaty powers the others cannot participate, & a rigid neutrality should be maintained, but in whatever is of common interest & common right under Treaties, I conceive there is great propriety in harmony & unanimity of action.

I shall receive with much pleasure any information of public interest you may acquire on your arrival at Whampoa or Canton, which you may be pleased to communicate. & if at any time you may regard my presence desirable I will repair thither with as little delay as possible after the departure of the Mail.

I have the honor to remain
Sir,
Very Respectfully
Your Obed. Servant
Peter Parker

Commodore James Armstrong
Commander in Chief of the United States Naval forces in the East India & China Seas &c &c &c
U. S. S. Frigate "San Jacinto"
Macao Roads.

Despatch No. 29. Exhibit B.

13 Nov. 1856

17

(Copy.)

Legation of the United States
Shanghae. 17th Oct. 1856.

Sir,

I have pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your Despatch of 15th Sept. enclosing Report of Imports & Exports in American vessels at Amoy for the year ending 30th June 1856. I have to thank you for important statistics you furnish regarding the Coal mines in your vicinity. I shall be obliged by any information you may acquire respecting the still more valuable Coal mines of Formosa to which you allude. The vast consumption of coals in the Steam Navigation of the present day attaches great importance to the subject both commercially and politically.

The Civilities you mention on the part of His Excellency the Taoutae, this tacit sanction, at least of the success of your perseverance in obtaining Consular premises on Ku-lang-su, are most gratifying. By a judicious, conciliatory, & firm policy on your part, I entertain the hope that our relations to the Chinese Government at the Port of Amoy will be greatly improved. Commodore J. Armstrong.

Thos. A. Hyatt Esqre
U. S. Consul
Amoy.

Read

has instructed Alexander A. Foote, Commander of the U. S. Ship Portsmouth now at Hong Kong to touch at Amoy en route to Shanghae. This will be handed you by Captain Foote one of our most estimable naval officers He has instructions from the Commodore to render you & our Countrymen at Amoy any assistance in his power, which may be required.

You state the Taoutai while apparently friendly has not made any strong efforts to release the Christian Converts imprisoned at his instigation, prior to entering upon his present office. I think it will be well to arrange for a personal interview with His Excellency on the occasion of Captain Foote's visit, to inform him that the United States Minister in July last relied implicitly upon the promises he then made to him to do whatever was just & proper in the premises, & such was his confidence in the sincerity & good faith of His Excellency that the Minister did not deem it necessary to advert to the subject in his interview a few days after, with the Vice Roy at Foo Chow but it is with extreme regret he has since been informed, that these innocent people are still incarcerated. And I trust by judiciously presenting this flagrant & disgraceful injustice supported as you will be by the presence of Naval authority, H. E. may be induced to act without further delay.

Reciprocating all your kind sentiments.

I remain, Sir,

Respectfully,

Your Obed. Serv.t

Peter Parker

Despatch No. 29. Exhibit B

Copy. —— 18

13 Novr 1856

No. 204.

Superintendency of Trade.
Hong Kong — 27th September 1856

Sir,

I am advised that the United States Consul, without any official communication to the Consul of H. B. M has stopped the Duties due upon four American vessels laden with Teas at Fuh Chow. and that they have proceeded on their voyage without the concurrence of the Chinese Authorities.

I hope Your Excellency will not deem me intrusive in enquiring whether so grave a step. whose consequences may imperil the export trade & involve matters of the deepest international ~~concern~~ has been taken with the sanction and approval of Your Excellency. and I am sure that the harmony & general cooperation with which our respective Governments desire their Plenipotentiaries to act in these regions, especially in the present entangled state of Chinese affairs will justify me in ascertaining for my own guidance. & for the protection of the interests committed to my charge, whether the course

To His Excellency
Dr Peter Parker,
United States Commissioner to China
&c —— &c —— &c

course pursued by your Consul at Tsih Chow has been in pursuance of Your Excellency's instructions, or has met with Your Excellency's approbation.?

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient

Humble Servant.—

(Signed) John Bowring.—

Despatch No. 29. Exhibit C. 1.

19

13 Nov. 1856.

(Copy.)

Legation of the United States.
Shanghae. 10th Oct. 1856.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's Despatch No. 20th of the 27th ult. relative to the action of the U. S. Consul at Fuh Chow, stopping the duties due upon four American vessels laden with teas at that Port. Enquiring whether the step had been taken with my sanction & approval? In reply I have to state that the U. S. Consul in this instance, has acted without my knowledge & sanction, & in opposition to the instructions of the Government at Washington.

With every appreciation of the trial of patience & forbearance to which the Consul was subjected, I have been compelled to admonish him of his disregard of instructions. But the step having been taken, it has been my policy, as it was with Your Excellency's Predecessor on a former & similar occasion, to make the best of it, & to manage as not to diminish the influence of the Consul with the

His Excellency
Sir John Bowring L. L. D.
Her Britannic Majesty's Plenipotentiary to China
&c &c &c

Chinese

Chinese Authorities. Mr. Jones under date of 23rd & 27th Sept. informed me of the measure he had temporarily adopted, rather than "strike his flag". — By the same post a despatch was received from the Vice Roy, dated 29th August informing me that one of the murderers of Mr. Cunningham had been arrested, who had confessed to his guilt, & that orders had been given for his speedy trial & punishment. On the 10th Sept. I enclosed the Consul a copy of that despatch with instructions that if on receipt thereof the murderer therein named had been punished according to Chinese law, & certain promises of the Vice Roy had been fulfilled, to deliver over the duties with-held, at once. If not, to wait till he should communicate with me again. To that communication no reply has been received, though hourly expected. —

The stopping of the duties, under the circumstances, & as a coercive measure, is the act of a Consul of one Government, & if not participated in by an Officer of any other, should affect the trade & involve matters of international concern, only as respects the one Government. The action of the British Consul at that

port based upon that of the U. S. Consul, as repeated in the public journals & letters of Commercial houses, appears most extraordinary.

That the murder of a fellow Countrymen by a subject or subjects of China, & the reluctant resorting to coercive measures to obtain satisfaction from the Chinese Government, should be regarded & claimed as a "privilege" is truly surprising. When for simple assault upon two British subjects. Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at the Port of Shanghae stopped the duties due by British Merchants, pending the redress of that grievance by the local Authorities, no question of privilege was raised by Americans, & when in 1846. H. B. Mts Plenipotentiary dismantled the forts at the Bogue, & proceeded with a Naval & Military force to Canton, without any previous notice to other powers, the object being to assert rights & to demand redress of grievances, no exception was taken thereto by either the Citizens or public functionaries of the United States in China

I learn with great satisfaction through private letters dated Fuh Chow. 27th ult. that our Consuls had that day had an interview with the Prefect, & that the existing diffculties were likely to be disposed

of

of satisfactorily.

Let me assure Your Excellency that no inquiry into matters of mutual & public interest will be regarded as intrusive, nor any apology be necessary to justify seeking any information, in my power to impart, for Your Excellency's guidance, or for the protection of the interests committed to Your Excellency's charge; & I trust that nothing shall ever be permitted by us to interrupt the harmony & general cooperation, to which Your Excellency refers, with which our respective Governments desire their Plenipotentiaries to act in China, & especially at this critical juncture.—

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Excellency's
Most obedient
Humble Servant.
Peter Parker.

Despatch No 29 Exhibit C.2

20

13th Novr 1856

No 22.

U. S. Consulate.

Fuh Chow. 2nd October 1856.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 13th of September, with a copy of the Vice-Roy's communication to you of the 29th of August. I do not like the language of the Vice-Roy's communication relative to Mr Cunninghame's death. He was not "killed in a mutual quarrel". In every other respect I have no objection to it & thank you for the Copy.—

In reply to that portion of your despatch in which you express your deep regret, that I have not adhered to the instructions of my Government and therefore not resorted to the extreme measure of stopping the duties. I beg leave to state it was a most unpleasant thing for me to do, & I throw myself entirely upon the consideration of the Government & yourself:— hoping that upon a full view of the subject. I shall be excused if I cannot be justified. I have done what I believed to be my imperative duty, in a most perplexing & trying time, & what I thought was absolutely necessary, to impress upon the Authorities here, that the murder of one of our Countrymen could not be passed over: & because I could not doubt, but that it was a most important & necessary step for our

future

future protection. Under such circumstances I cannot bear the censure of my Government or Superiors. But for your kindness in supporting me in this extreme measure, & thus justifying or rather excusing the act, I should have surrendered my trust here, just as soon as the public interests would have permitted me to have done so.

Affairs here are in a much more satisfactory state. Solemn promises are made to me that the murderers of M. Cunningham shall be punished according to law. I feel satisfied that they are now in earnest. The stoppage of the duties will induce them to act promptly. As an evidence the Vice-Roy sent an Officer to me this morning, earnestly entreating me not to continue to stop the duties but said he was perfectly willing that I should hold the duties already due, (about $70,000) until the offender was justly punished. I was sorry that I could not consistently comply with his request. Had I have done so. I am confident the murderers would have escaped, & I should hereafter have heard no more about paying over the amount. I do not want money, but justice, & it is certain that this is the only way I can obtain it here. I very much regret that M. Consul Medhurst

has

has thought it necessary for him to stop the duties due on British ships. He did so, on the 23d Sept. and several ships have cleared from his office without paying the duties. The Prefect has, (as I am informed by the officers who called this morning) protested strongly against his doing so. He says the American Consul had cause to complain, but he, Mr. Medhurst has no ground for complaint whatever, & in this respect I agree with the Prefect, but have no doubt Mr. Medhurst has acted conscientiously & done what he believed to be his duty. I have taken bonds from the merchants to pay upon order the amount due, just as soon as the Authorities here do, what they have promised so often. I will have the duties paid up.

I regret to inform you that the American Ship "Wild Duck" went on shore about two miles from where she loaded, & will be a total loss. Not more than one fourth of her Cargo will be saved.

I have the honor to remain,

With great respect

Your Obed. Servant.

His Excellency.
Peter Parker.
U. S. Commissioner & Minister Plenipotentiary to China

(Signed) Caleb Jones
U. S. Consul

Despatch No 29. Exhibit C. 3

13 Novr. 1856

21

No 23.

United States Consulate.

Fuh Chow. 4th October 1856.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward you a copy of a Circular which I thought it my duty to issue on the 24th ult. I was unwilling to involve either foreign flags or subjects in our difficulties & I objected in a friendly manner, until I thought it might be officious to say more against the stoppage of duties by the representatives of other Governments. I expected that the immediate effect of such a course would have been, very embarrassing to me. The Authorities were officially informed that as soon as the duties were paid on American Ships they would be paid upon English Ships. I was consequently prepared to hear of tea boats belonging to our Countrymen being stopped from going down to the Ships at any moment. Had the authorities have done so. You can readily imagine what a most difficult position it would have placed me in. It is possible that such a step would have compelled me to an unconditional surrender. That they did not do it, is a wonder to me. I am not yet satisfied that they will not resort to that measure. The Prefect enquired what I

should

should do if the boats were stopped. I told him that when such a contingency arose I would promply inform him of the course I should adopt, at the same time assuring him that it would complicate our difficulties still more, & not give him the duties a moment sooner. I have always been of the opinion that in case the British Authorities had troubles here, all parties would be benefitted by the American Authorities being on the best terms with the Chinese Authorities, & "vice versa". In such a case there would be no danger of any boats being stopped, & the trade would not not be in jeopardy, as it certainly is at present. I most earnestly desire to have our troubles ended here, & thus be relieved from the great responsibility resting upon me, in consequence of the course I deemed it my duty to accept.

I have the honor to be
With great respect
Your Obed: Servant
(Signed) Caleb Jones
U.S. Consul.

His Excellency.
Peter Parker.
U.S. Commissioner & Minister Plenipotentiary
to China. — Now in Shang Hae

"Circular"

U. S. Consulate.
Foochow fu - 24th Sept. 1856.

Citizens of the United States importing or exporting merchandize subject to duty, in any other than American Ships will pay the duty into the Chinese Custom House previous to such Ships departure.

All persons except citizens of the United States, who import or export Merchandize subject to duty in any American Ship must pay the duty into the Chinese Custom House, and furnish me with satisfactory proof of the same previous to the departure of the ship

(Signed.)
Caleb Jones.
U. S. Consul.

True copy.
Thos Reynolds.

Despatch No. 29. Exhibit C. 4

23

13 Novr 1856.

(Copy)

Legation of the United States.
Shanghae 18th Oct. 1856.

Sir.

Your Despatches Nos. 22 & 23. of the 2nd & 4th Inst. came to hand yesterday. from which I learn with pleasure that affairs at your port are in a more satisfactory state. that you have the solemn assurances of the Authorities that the murderer of the late Mr Cunningham shall be punished according to law & that you are satisfied they are now in earnest. I note, however, with some concern the solicitude you express in your Despatch of the 4th inst.

I enclose for your personal information a copy of a note of the 10th inst addressed to H. E. Her Britannic Majesty's Plenipotentiary. I do not doubt Mr Medhurst has acted conscientiously, but I think he has taken an erroneous view of the privilege he claims. I need not impress upon you the importance of good correspondence being cultivated between foreign Consuls in China; united they will strengthen each others hands & more successfully promote the common good.

Caleb Jones Esqre
U. S. Consul.
Fuh Chow.

Divided

Divided, the Chinese will reap an advantage

In consequence of the health of her crew the U. S. Ship "Levant" is under sailing orders for Hong Kong & on arrival there by the orders of Commodore James Armstrong the U. S. Ship "Portsmouth" will leave for Shang Hae, touching in at the intermediate ports, if exigencies require, and circumstances here, permit Commodore Armstrong has signified his readiness to visit Yeh Chow himself. This information you will understand what use to make of in your intercourse with the local Authorities. Impress upon them your Government only requires justice & the guarantees of the Treaty; these it will insist upon, & enforce, by all amicable & reasonable means. —

I had seen previous to receipt of your copy the circular of the 24th ultimo. which I did not understand. With the explanation of your motive, not to involve other flags in a matter that does not concern them, I regard the same as judicious, as I do your answer to the Prefects' interrogative. —

Please keep me fully informed of the progress of events at your port, & I trust that at an early day you may report the satisfactory adjustment of existing difficulties.

Very

Very Respectfully.

Your Obed.t Serv.t

Peter Parker

Despatch No. 29. Exhibit C. 5.

1 24 15 Nov. 1856.

No. 24 — United States Consulate.

Copy. — Fuh Chow fu. 11th Oct. 1856.

Sir.

It is with great pleasure that I inform you that our affairs at this port are in a more satisfactory state. On the 7th inst. I received information, that if I desired an interview with His Excellency the Vice-Roy that it was probable I could have one. I at once acted upon the hint. I sent my card to His Excellency and asked for an interview. The next day he sent me his card, saying he would be pleased to see me on Saturday at three P. M. & I have this moment returned. As the interview was in fact of his seeking, it was proper for him to open the subject of conversation, but I waived that point, & told him I had called to ascertain from him when the murderers of my countrymen were to be punished, remarking that nearly four months had passed since the outrage. He replied that all had been done, which could be, according to law, & entreated me to have the duties paid up according to the treaty. I replied I would do so with pleasure as soon as the guilty parties were punished, & not before.

That

That I would no longer rely upon promises, & instanced the promises made to return the money stolen at Yung ping foo sixteen months since, & the promises made to Captain Pope & myself a year ago, in relation to the attack upon the two officers of the "Vandalia" & generally all the promises which have been made & violated during the last eighteen months. He said that he would attend to all these matters if I would pay the duties, & repeatedly said that if he did not, I might then stop the duties as long as I pleased. I replied that I regretted that I could not comply with his request. He then said he must have the money; & if it could not be collected here, it must be at the Upper Bridge, (eight or ten miles above here.) That the Treaty provided for the payment of duties & that he must have the money to feed & clothe his men, as well as for other purposes. I replied that the treaty was no more imperative in that article, than in the one which stipulated for the protection of persons & property of American citizens, & if the latter one had been observed, the former would never have been broken. I have not time to give you the purport of the whole conversation, as the Messenger leaves in a half hour, suffice to say, I told him that if he would issue

his proclamation (& furnish me with copies of it) stating that the criminal was to be punished for the murder of Mr. Cunningham. that I would stop no more duties. He at once consented. I told him that as soon as the criminal was punished. I would pay over to him the amount now justly due to the Chinese Government. He was much pleased & thanked me repeatedly. He then tried his best to induce me to give up what has already been withheld & rely upon his promise to have justice done. This I declined doing. — He then said he would write to you & request you to direct me to do so. I replied that I would forward his communication with great pleasure. I have about eighty thousand dollars, more or less, & they really do not object to my keeping this until the affair is settled by the punishment of the guilty parties. I shall direct the duties in future to be paid, & will write you more fully by next opportunity

I have the honor to remain

With great respect

Your Obed.t Serv.t

(Signed) Caleb Jones

U. S. Consul.

His Excellency

Peter Parker.

U. S. Commissioner & Minister Plenipotentiary to China.

now in Shanghae

Despatch No. 29. - Exhibit C.6.

25

13 Nov. 1856

Copy.

No. 213.

Superintendency of Trade.

Hong Kong. 10th October 1856.

Sir,

I am advised that a United States Vessel, the "Kingfisher" freighted by subjects of Her Britannic Majesty, has been allowed under the Authority of the United States Consul to depart from the Port of Tsih Chow without the payment of duties due to the Chinese Government.

I am further advised that, instead of such duties, the United States Consul has taken a promissory note from the said British subjects, by which they have engaged to make the payment of Duties dependent on questions now at issue between the authorities of the U.States & those of China.

I confine myself at present to the officializing to Your Excellency these extraordinary & in my judgment unwarrantable proceedings, & to the formal announcement that I do not recognise the validity of the promissory note which is stated to have been exacted by the United States Consul, or the existence of any foreign authority to release Her

Majesty's

Majesty's subjects from Treaty obligations.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient,

Humble Servant

(Signed) John Bowring.

His Excellency

Dr. Peter Parker

U. S. Commissioner.

&c ——— &c ——— &c

True Copy.

Thos. J. Reynolds

26

Despatch No. 29. Exhibit C. 7. —
13 Novr 1856.

(Copy.)

Legation of the United States.
Shang Hae. 28th October 1856.

Sir,

I hasten to enclose for your information and guidance a copy of a despatch of the 10th instant just received from His Excellency Sir John Bowring, Her Britannic Majesty's Plenipotentiary, relative to your action in regard to British Subjects, freighters of the American Merchantman "Kingfisher." — By an early opportunity I shall address you again upon the subject. —

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant.
Peter Parker

Caleb Jones Esqre
U. S. Consul.
Fuh Chow.

Despatch no 29. Exhibit C. 8.
13 Novr 1856.

27

Superintendency of Trade,
Hongkong. 20th Oct. 1856

Sir

I learn with extreme satisfaction from your Excellency's dispatch of 10th inst. that the United States' Consul at Fatshan, in stopping the duties, "has acted "without your Excellency's knowledge and "sanction, and in opposition to the instructions "of the Government at Washington."

I have expressed my disapproval of the course Her Majesty's Consul has thought fit to adopt, & have conveyed to him my dissatisfaction of not having officially advised me till the 17th Sept. of the stoppage of duties, which appears to have commenced in the early part of August. Your Excellency states that the dispatches of the U. S. Consul advising you of the "measures he had temporarily adopted," were dated the 25th & 27th of September. I trust that on the receipt of your Excellency's "admonition," that there will be no delay in the payment

H E Dr Peter Parker
U. S. Commissioner to China
&c &c &c

ment of the duties which have been detained by the United States & British Consuls, and that the great perils to which the trade at Fuhchau has been exposed will be removed

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Excellency's Most obt
humble servant
(Signed) J Bowring

Dispatch no 29. Exhibit C. 9.

13 Novr 1856.

28

No 226

Superintendency of Trade,
Hongkong 24th Oct. 1856.

Sir,

In reference to my dispatch No 213, addressed to your Excellency on the 10th inst., on the subject of promissory notes exacted from subjects of Her Britannic Majesty, by which the payment of duties due by them to the Chinese Government has been made dependant upon questions at issue between the U. S. authorities & those of China, I am now informed that the U. S. Consul at Fuhchau has expressed his intention of retaining duties for which he holds promissory notes, for the purpose of obtaining satisfaction on sundry matters connected with points at issue between your Excellency and the Chinese authorities. I am sure I only need hint to your Excellency the inconvenience — to use no stronger term — of that isolated and peculiar policy which has been pursued by the U. S. Consul, involving questions of the very gravest character in relation to foreign nations. I trust

H. E. Dr. Peter Parker
U. S. Commr to China

trust, however, on the receipt of Your Excellency's "admonition", that a stop will be put to proceedings tainted with so much irregularity

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Excellency's most
Obedient, humble Servant
(Signed) J. Bowring

Despatch No. 29. Exhibit C. 10.
13 Nov. 1856.

29

Wang. Governor General of the Min & Hoh provinces
&c &c hereby communicates on business. Letters
relating to the affray which happened between
Americans & Chinese, wherein life was lost, have
passed between me & Your Excellency. In
compliance with my strict orders, the district
Magistrate of Min has arrested a man named
Tung Awa. Keun, who on being questioned has
acknowledged that he wounded Howard Cunningham
so that he died; of the particulars of this examination
you have already been informed. The local
magistrate has already subjected the criminal
Tung to a severe examination according to the
laws of China, & also transferred him to the
Courts of the Prefect, judge & Governor that the
case may be compared & investigated, and then
reported at Court. As is requisite & proper.

(I also inform Your Excellency of
these particulars of the trial, & while I send
them avail of the opportunity to wish
you every peace.

To His Excellency.
Peter Parker
Commissioner of the U. S. A. to China.
12 Oct. 1856.

Despatch no 29. - Exhibit C. 11

13 Nov: 1856.

Wang Governor General &c &c of the Min-Chek Provinces hereby communicates on business. I learn from the deputy in charge of the Nan-tai Custom house in the district of Min, that the American Consul Jones has informed him that the duties due on Wei Aluk's & others ships four in all, on which tea has been loaded, amounting in all to 27,000 taels or more will be retained until the local magistrates have arrested & examined & punished the man who killed a countryman of his; then the money will be paid over to the Custom house as the duty on the ~~duty~~ cargoes of those ships.

I now learn that the district Magistrate of Min has already arrested the murderer, named Tung Hiva Kieun who on examination confessed that he had wounded Howard Cunningham so that he died; & in conformity to Chinese law, he had also subjected him to a strict examination & trial, the particulars of which have already been made known to your Excellency.

This criminal Tung Hiva Kieun having thus been tried by the local Chinese Magistrate, it is incumbent on the United States to pay over all the duty still unpaid on the tea shipped, & thus to conform to the

treaty.

treaty. Let the amount be paid in full, then that harmony & good understanding which exist in our commerce will not be lost, & what is more the Consul Jones will act therein in a just manner. He just now awaits a letter from Your Excellency, as it is very inexpedient to have this matter longer delayed. I now inform you of these things, hoping that you will order Consul Jones immediately to pay over the full amount of duties upon tea still unpaid in accordance with the stipulations of the treaty, for the matter is pressing. There are also other unsettled amounts due for duty on tea & I beg they may be strictly paid up in full without any further delay

As I communicate this, I send you my salutations for your peaceful prosperity.

To. His Excellency
Peter Parker
Commissioner of the U.S.A. to China
&c &c &c

13th Oct. 1856

Despatch No 29. Exhibit C 12
13 Nov. 1856.

Proclamation of H.E. Wang.
14th Oct. 1856

Wang, a president of the Board of War, and Governor General of the provinces of Min & Cheh hereby issues this plain order. It is well known that the traders & people are very closely crowded at the mart of Nantai in the City of Fuh Chow, their dwellings being close upon each other Foreign Merchants have come too to traffic in tea, & dispose of their goods, & there the duties are paid, so that the trade is great. You people of the land ought to act with more care & both parties carefully maintaining right in all intercourse with each other lest the good harmony so desirable in trade be lost. During this year, a man of the district of Min, Tsung Hwa-Kuien gave cause for a feud in that he wounded an American Howard Cunningham, in a quarrel so that he died. truly in this he had not the fear of the laws before his eyes. I the Governor General have already ordered the District Magistrate respecting it, who reports that he has already apprehended the criminal Tsung Hwa-Kiuen who confesses to the crime & that in conformity to the laws of the land he has been delivered to the prefect and the judge for investigation, who have

memorialized the Court on the case. I have also informed the American Minister Parker that he may learn the facts.

Wherefore I now issue this plain order. Let all you traders among the people inform yourselves of its purport. let each one carefully attend to his own duties & maintain the best intercourse & trade with foreign Merchants. Thus both parties will live peaceably. Let no one give cause for offence or despise this injunction. If any one be disobedient & presumes to go on in the old track he will be forthwith examined for his crime according to the laws of the land, & severely punished. No leniency will be shown. Let therefore each one carefully regard this proclamation ipued for this express end.—

The foregoing order is for public information

Issued 14th October 1856.

Despatch No. 29 Exhibit C. 13.

32

13 Novr. 1856.

(Copy.)

Legation of the United States.

Shanghae. 1st Novr. 1856.

Sir.

Your Despatch No. 24 of the 11th October has been duly received informing me of your interview with the Vice Roy. that His Excellency had renewed to you the assurance that his promises should be fulfilled & that His Excellency will publish his determination that the murderer of the late Mr. Cunningham should be punished, & that you would direct the duties in future to be paid &c. — From the tenor of this despatch I am encouraged to hope that all difficulties at your port will be speedily & satisfactorily adjusted — On the 28th ult. I enclosed you a copy of a communication from Sir John Bowring, relative to the case of the "Kinfisher" which was the first information I had received upon the subject. I am sure you will appreciate the impropriety

To.

Caleb Jones Esqre.
U. S. Consul.
Fuh Chow.

pointed

pointed out by His Excellency I under all circumstances avoid them in future.

I enclose a Despatch for the Vice-Roy, I send you a copy of the same.

On the 3rd inst. I proceed in the "San Jacinto" to Hong Kong. I request that till otherwise advised you will address me, Care of Genl James Keenan. United States Consul. Hong Kong.

Very Respectfully
Your Obed. Servt.
Peter Parker

Despatch No. 29. Exhibit C. 14.

13 Novr 1856.

United States Legation — U. S. Steamer "San Jacinto."
Wooseung. — 8th Novr 1856.

Sir.

Your despatch No. 25 of the 17th ult. has been duly received, & also two communications from H. E. the Vice Roy. I have time to write you but briefly. Please to inform His Excellency that his despatches were received when I was on the eve of leaving this port, too late to acknowledge them.

That I shall embrace the earliest opportunity of addressing His Excellency fully upon the subject of his two communications.

In regard to your own Despatch, make no new conditions. When the specific objects for which you detained the duties is attained, viz. the punishment of the murderer of Mr Cunningham, according to the laws of China, pay back the duties. If in the mean time you can take advantage of your position to settle other questions well & good.

Caleb Jones Esqre
U. S. Consul.
Fish Chow.

By

By the earliest opportunity I shall also address you fully.

In haste.

Very Respectfully
Your obed. Serv.
Peter Parker

Despatch No. 29. Exhibit D.

34

13 Nov: 1856.

Copy. Consulate of the U.S.A.

Shang Hae. 30th Sept. 1856.

To. His Excellency,

Peter Parker.

&c &c &c

Shang Hae.

Sir,

Referring to your despatch dated 9th August. transmitting to this office the papers in the case of the United States Versus Charles Jackson charged with Shooting William Henry Smith with a pistol with intent to Kill. I have the honor now to state that the case was delayed until a certificate from the attending Surgeon could be received as to the probable result of the attack. Under date of 27th August William Parker the attending Surgeon writes to the acting Consul McLaren at Ningpo, which was by him forwarded to me that Smith who was shot in the forehead has quite recovered & resumed his work. On the receipt of this the Court was organised consisting of United States Consul as Judge, John Wright, G. H. Wilson. B. W. Tucker, & R. Simonson as associates, The Indictment read, when he plead guilty to the charge of Shooting, but not to the intent to Kill, & urged in defence that he was obliged to do as he has done in self defence, & on account of the notorious bad

Character

character of Smith. Under all the attending circumstances as developed by the defendant's witnesses the Court were unanimous in the sentence of 12 Calender months Confinement in the Jail to take effect from the day of Trial.

I have the honor to be,

Very Respectfully,

Your Obed.t Serv.t

(Signed,) R.C. Murphy.

Comd.t U.S.A.

Despatch No. 29. Exhibit D-1-

35

13 Novr 1856

Copy.

U. S. Legation

Shang Hae. 2nd Oct. 1856

R. C. Murphy Esqr.

U. S. Consul

Shang Hae.-

Sir

Your note of the 30th ult was duly received informing me of the trial & sentence of Charles Jackson, charged with a criminal offence. In view of all the circumstances of the case, I think the sentence just, at the same time lenient

I now return your despatch No 4 addressed to the Secretary of State, I should have done so earlier, but from a desire of seeing you respecting it. I do so simply remarking that much graver subjects have usually been referred by U. S. Consuls to the Commissioner, & quite as appropriately as to the Secretary of State.

I am in receipt of the Report of the Secretary of Maritime Customs, giving the return of Imports & Exports at the port of Shang Hae for the year ending 30th June 1856.- which I have perused with interest, & shall be obliged by your furnishing a duplicate if convenient

Respectfully.

Respectfully
Your Obed.t Serv.t
Peter Parker

Despatch No. 29 Exhibit D. 2.

31

13 Novr. 1856.

No. 243

Superintendency of Trade

Hongkong 4th Novr. 1856

Sir,

I have received instructions from Her Majesty's Government to the effect, that, considering the vast amount of British interest located at Shanghai, the revolution. any forces are not to be allowed to take possession of that city. & their attempting to do so is to be repelled by force

The views of Her Majesty's government have been communicated to that of His Imperial Majesty, & I have received from Lord Cowley, Her Majesty's embassador at Paris, the information that the French government concurs in this matter with that of Great Britain, & that corresponding instructions will be sent to the French admiral commanding in the China Seas.

I am further directed to make with your Excellency such arrangements as may be desirable for vigorous protection & defense of common interests, & shall be happy to have the earliest opportunity of consid=

H. E. Dr. Peter Parker

U S Commissioner to China

&c &c &c

considering with your Excellency what measures the present complicated state of affairs in China demand at our hands.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Excellency's most
Obt. humble servant
(Signed) J. Bowring

Rec'd 29 Jany. Mr Lynch Pers of Mr R

1 Account sent to Consular Bureau

(Coxe obs.)

No: 30.

Legation of the United States.

Macao. 13th November 1856.

My His Excellency

William L. Marcy.

Secretary of State. Washington

Sir.

I have the honor herewith to enclose the correspondence with the Consulate at Ningpo in a separate despatch for the purpose of requesting the special attention of the department to the long unadjusted claims of Dr Mc Cartee, who for a number of years has discharged the duties of U.S. Consul at that port.

In a former despatch I had the honor to invite your attention to the just claims of Dr Mc Cartee upon the U.S. Government for his official services. I now presume to repeat the request that the same may receive the speedy & favorable attention of the Department.

With great respect. I remain

Sir.

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient Servt

Peter Parker

United States Consulate
Ningpo. 1st. Oct. 1856

To

H. E. Peter Parker
United States Commissioner
in China, &c &c

Sir

The time has arrived at which it is my duty to forward the quarterly account of Ships entered and fees received at this Consulate. I regret to have to state that Circular No 13, referred to in Your Excellency's despatch of the 23d August, has not yet been received, but is still missing. I am therefore still at a loss as to the exact form of the report required. There have however but two American vessels entered this port during the quarter just ended, both of which entered in ballast and cleared with Chinese cargoes for other ports in China. My only resource therefore is to send a statement relative to them, which I believe contains all the information required by the Department of State. I have also the honor to forward an Account current with the United States Government in accordance with the instructions contained in Your Excellency's despatch of 23d August.

Little of interest has transpired at this port since my last despatch of 26th August

August. The early crop in this neighborhood was quite as good as usual, although apprehensions are entertained as to the safety of the 2nd crop of rice, owing to the appearance of locusts at a short distance from hingpo. But little is doing in mercantile transactions Our last accounts from the insurgents at Ningkwohfu, on the borders of this province, reported them still in possession of that city, and that the imperial troops were encamped about eight miles near er to Ningpo. The price of the dollar has commenced to fall, within the last few days, which would seem to indicate less apprehension relative to the safety of Suchau, than existed a short time since

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt
D. B. McCartee

Appendix A. United States Consular despatch
Ningpo Consulate. 1st October. 1856.
Statement of vessels entered and fees received
&c at the United States Consulate, Ningpo,
China, during the quarter ending 30th. Sept.
1856—

No 5. Entered the 11th day of August. 1856.
Brig Melita —
Tonnage per register 198 39/95 tons. (per "English
measurement," as certified by Government
Surveyor at Hongkong, Aug. 2nd 18
56, = 146 tons)
Built. A.D. 1851. At South Thomaston Me
Belonging to Boston, Mass.
From Hongkong Bound to Hongkong.
Owners. F. Cunningham, C. Cunningham,
W. H. Cunningham, Cl. Dabney & O. Dabney
Master Lemuel French.
Cargo inward — None.
Cargo outward - Produced and manufactured
in China. Description = Wheat. quantity 817 bags. Tea
102 chests. Fish & Medecines 91 packages. Value
not known to Master, being shipped by a Chinese
broker
Crew inward. American 6 - Foreign 2 —
Crew outward " 6 - " 2 —
Tonnage fees $0.99 - Other fees none
Total of fees $0.99 —
Date of Clearance 18th August 1856—

No

No 6. Entered 17th September 1856

Brig Progressive Age.
Built in 1834. At Belfast Me and a.
Belonging to Belfast Me U.S.A.
Owners. David, John, & Hiram C. Pierce
Master Aurelius Holmes.
Cargo inward none.

Cargo outward	description	Quantity	value
produced and manufactured in China	Teas	5334 pcuds	$ 6844
	Wheat	200 pcuds	260
	Sundries	134 packages	402
			$7506.

Crew inward American 9 — Foreign 3 —
Crew outward " 10 — " 3 —
Tonnage Fees $ 1.48. Other fees (for shipping 1 man) $ 1.00 Total of fees $ 2.48
Tonnage of brig — 296 $^{82}/_{95}$ tons —
~~Date~~ Shanghae Bound to Hongkong
Date of Clearance Sept. 27th 1856

United States Government in acct. with D. B. McCartee, acting Consul at Ningpo China —

	Dr.
To balance due from quarter ending 30th June	$ 3.94
To Stationery, viz. 1 Letter Book for U.S. Consulate	1.30
To " " 1 Book for recording Protests for do. do.	0.70
	$ 5.94

United

United States Government in acct. with W. B. McCartee acting Consul at Ningpo, China. Cr.

By fees received from Brig Melita	$ 0.99	
By " " " " Progressive Age	2.48	
		$ 3.47
By unclaimed moneys belonging to Alex. Woodman & Geo. Gilfillan escaped criminals		2.78
By Moneys paid over by Chinese as belonging to the estate of W. F. Barnes seaman, deceased, supposed to be an American citizen		18.20
		$ 24.45
Per Contra Brought over Dr.		5.94
United States Government by balance Cr.		$ 18.51

E. and O. E.

W. B. McCartee
United States acting Consul

(Copy.)

Legation of the United States.
Shanghae. 29th Oct. 1856.

Sir.

Your Despatches of the 1st & 23d instant have been duly received. On the eve of my return to the South, I am able to write you but briefly.—

It is with extreme regret that I accept your resignation of the office of Acting Consul, the duties of which you have performed with so much ability and fidelity. I approve of your proposition to deliver in to the care of Mr. R. J. Way, the Seal, Archives & other property of the Consulate, and shall be pleased if Mr. Way will consent to take charge of the same, temporarily to discharge at least, the indispensible duties of the office, till other provisions can be made. I shall address him upon the subject.—

In transmitting by next Mail your account Current to the State Department I shall not fail to represent your claims to speedy & just compensation, for your official services rendered the Government, in their true light.—

I enclose for your information, & to be placed on file in your Consulate, the report of the decision of the Consular Court at this Port, in the case of the United States, versus—

Charles

Charles Jackson, charged with shooting William Henry Smith with intent to kill.- Enclosure A.-

With full appreciation of the disinterestedness, & I may add, patriotic, views with which you have assumed & discharged the duties of United States Consul at the Port of Ningpo, for a number of years, I trust that in good time you may return from your visit to the United States with confirmed health, to prosecute your important labors in China.—

I remain,

Sir.

Very Respectfully

Your Obed.t Serv.t

Peter Parker

D. B. McCartee Esq.r

U. S. Acting Consul.

Ningpo

Copy.

United States Consulate.

Ningpo. 23rd October 1856.

To.

His Excellency— Peter Parker.

U. S. Commissioner in China.—

&c &c &c

Sir.

I had the honor to address Your Excellency on the 1st inst. enclosing a statement of the Fees &c for the quarter ending 30th September which I trust has been received. It will appear from that statement, that there was in my hands at that date a balance of Eighteen dollars and fifty one cents ($18\frac{51}{100}$) of moneys belonging to the United States government. There has since been received during the present month, a single fee of ninety nine cents — ($0.\frac{99}{100}$) viz. for entering & reporting the Brig Melita from Shanghae for Hong Kong, leaving in my hands nineteen dollars and fifty Cents ($19\frac{50}{100}$)

Having for a long time contemplated a return to the Ustates: & being now desirous of doing so, as early as I can make the necessary arrangements, I respectfully request Your Excellency to accept of my resignation from & after the 31st of this month, & to appoint at as early a date as possible, some one to take charge of the affairs of this Consulate. Although nearly nine Months have elapsed since the date of my commission as Acting Consul,

I have as yet received no advice from the U. S. Government as to the Salary or emoluments of the office; being seriously embarrassed in consequence of being left so long without an income. I trust Your Excellency will represent the matter strongly to the U. S. Government, in order that I may as soon as possible, be able to discharge my liabilities, which I incurred upon the faith of the terms of my Commission as Acting Consul. & upon the official opinion of the Attorney General of the U. S. A. relative to the appointment & authority &c of such officers. Should it become necessary for me to leave Ningpo before my successor arrives, I shall seal up the money, flag, seal, & other effects belonging to the U. S. Government & deliver them into the care of the Revd R. J. Ways an American Citizen resident at this place, subject to Your Excellency's order. Even were my stay in China protracted & my private financial resources sufficient for my support without Salary, I should not be able to continue to act unless I were furnished with a clerk. The constant confinement from 10 A. M. to 4 P. M. every day in addition to the duties of the office being too much for me in my present state of health. —

I have the honor to be,

Respectfully Your Obed. Servt.

(Signed) D. R. McCartee.

True Copy.

Jno. J. Reynolds

(Copy.)

United States Legation.
U. S. S. Frigate "San Jacinto"
Woosung. 3rd Novr 1856.

Revd R. Q. Way.
Ningpo.

Dear Sir,

I have recently received notice from D. B. McCartee Esqre Acting U. S. Consul at Ningpo of his purpose to return to the U. States & that on resigning his office he proposed to leave the Seal, archives & other property of the Consulate in your charge. I shall be extremely obliged by your consenting to do so, & now write specially to inquire, if you are willing temporarily to discharge the indispensible duties of U. S. Consul at that port. I am aware you would not do so from choice, but venture to hope that from the urgent necessity of there being someone authorized to act as Consul at Ningpo you may be induced to assume the responsibility, till other arrangements can be made. If so, you are hereby authorized to act as Consular Agent, at once & on receiving your permission

I will formally commission you as Acting Consul. In the event of your declining, Kindly inform me if there be any one of our Countrymen at Ningpo, who will be willing to assume the temporary charge of the Consular office. Possibly Dr. D. Macgowan who has some experience in the office, may consent to do so. In the event of your declining, I shall be pleased if he will.

Very Respectfully
Your obed.t Serv.t
Peter Parker.

United States Legation

No. 31. U. S. S. Frigate "San Jacinto"

Whampoa 22nd Nov. 1856.

His Excellency

William L. Marcy

Secretary of State of the United States.

Washington.

Sir.

The extraordinary & unprecedented state of affairs at this port induces me to avail myself of an express Steamer about to be despatched by the British Admiral to address you via Calcutta.

Saturday evening the 15th inst. I received a note from Commodore J. Armstrong from Whampoa desiring me to join him wishing to advise with me in relation to the state of affairs at Canton (Canton). On the 17th inst. I repaired hither, & on my arrival at the Flag Ship was informed that a wanton & hostile attack had been made upon the flag of the U. S. & one American Seaman killed. On the P. M. of the 15th as Captn A. H. Foote of the U. S. Ship Portsmouth was proceeding to Canton, the Barrier forts midway from this Anchorage to the City opened fire upon him with round & grape shot by which all in the boat were in imminent peril of their lives. The U. S. flag was waived to no purpose. & Captn Foote returned & reported to the Commodore what had occurred. On the morning of the 16th Lieut. J. C. Williamson of the "San Jacinto" with Pilot Ayres proceeded in a boat of the "San Jacinto" to sound the river in the vicinity of the forts, when they opened fire upon him, & the second shot fired took fatal effect upon J. Mullen the Coxswain of the boat. The "Portsmouth" & "Levant" with 160 officers & men from the Flag Ship were immediately

immediately ordered to the barrier & towed into position by Steamers. Two of the forts, one on either side of the river were silenced by the shells of the "Portsmouth", the Levant grounding was unable to get into position.

On the 17th Capt. Wm. Smith, with the Naval force under his command which had been placed at Canton for the protection of American Citizens was recalled to join their ships.-

Shortly after I reached the Flag-Ship at 4. P. M. on the 17th inst. Commodore Armstrong returned & addressed the Imperial Commissioner, informing him of what had transpired, demanding explanations & satisfaction for the outrage & limiting the time for a reply to twenty four hours. (Exhibit - A.)

He considered what had been done to the forts a sufficient rebuke, provided satisfactory apologies were made by the Imperial Commissioner - but on the 18th inst. it was discovered that the forts were being repaired & new batteries constructed by the Chinese preparatory to renewing hostilities in a manner that left no alternative to our vessels, & without waiting the answer of H. E. Yeh early on the morning of the 20th the vessels renewing their attack upon the forts. In the evening the answer of the Imperial Commissioner which was received at Canton within the time specified reached the Commodore & was found unsatisfactory. (Exhibit - B.) Commodore Armstrong immediately addressed His Excellency a rejoinder (Exhibit C.) & forwarded to Canton on the morning of the 21st for translation & transmission. In the mean time the work of taking the forts four in number has been vigorously & successfully prosecuted, two of which have been mined, & all have been taken.-

As full & detailed reports will be made in due time by the Naval Commander in Chief to the Navy Department, my aim is to give but a general

statement

statement to that of the Department of State. The casualties on the part of the U. S. Forces, thus far are four killed & nine wounded. - two of the five died of accidental & self inflicted wounds. The loss of life on the part of the Chinese must have been very great.

The manner in which the Commanders A. H. Foote of the "Portsmouth" - H. H. Bell of the "San Jacinto". & William Smith of the Levant their officers & men, have acquitted themselves is above all praise, worthy the men, & the flag whose insult & injury they have been called upon to avenge. - This is the first blow that has ever been struck by our navy in China - & it has been done in a manner calculated to secure for it an important prestige in the mind of this haughty government. Our gallant officers & men have not forgotten the bearing of this first demonstration of our force, upon the future. - The solid masonry of the forts exceeded all belief & the courage displayed by the Chinese was worthy of a better cause. When the details of the past few days transactions are considered, the little loss on the part of our forces will appear most remarkable.

This occurrence is one specifically concerning the Naval Authority of the United States in China, & on my arrival at this place I desired Commodore Armstrong to treat it as a distinct & isolated matter, & deemed it judicious to suspend my correspondence with the Imperial Commissioner till it is disposed of when I shall resume my correspondence, & demand His Excellency's attention to other subjects now in abeyance. -

Yesterday Commodore Armstrong & myself visited Canton in compliance with the desire of His Excellency Sir John Bowring to hold a friendly conference with His Excellency & Rear Admiral Sir Michael Seymour for minutes of which see Exhibit - D.

The

The obstinacy of the Imperial Commissioner is quite inscrutable. Either he has become desperate, and determined to adhere to his insane policy to the death, or he is ambitious of attaining to an illustrious apotheosis as model hater of foreigners. I am informed that a strong tide of unpopularity is setting against him on the part of the gentry & people, & that even a high officer has whispered in the ear of the English that he wished they would send more shells into his Court. I do not despair of settled hostilities being warded off yet a little longer, if not permanently, but it cannot be doubted that the position of all foreigners is most critical at this moment, at this port & it will be very fortunate if amicable relations are continued at the others. The last reports from Fish Chow are very satisfactory (Exhibit E.)

It is just reported by Dr. Williams from Canton that the French have this day withdrawn their force from that city!

Commodore Armstrong informs me he writes the Navy Department by this opportunity upon the necessity of increasing our Naval force in China. I think it will be apparent to the President that let the present state of affairs take the most favorable turn possible, the urgency is great that our force should be increased from home with as little delay as possible & that authority be granted to charter here temporarily such steamers as may be indispensable & available. I must earnestly and respectfully commend the subject to your immediate & favorable attention.

The policy of the British Government in China is indicated to me to — hold the City of Canton interrorem, until instructions are received from Downing Street, unless the Imperial Commissioner succumb, but not to advance unless compelled by the hostile measures of the Chinese. The policy I deem it wise to pursue, so far as

the

the United States Government is concerned, is foreshadowed in my note to Sir John Bowring of the 17th inst. (Exhibit No. 3) unless causes too powerful to resist shall drive me from it.

With sentiments of high consideration and esteem.

I have the honor to remain

Sir.

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient Servant.

Peter Parker.

1 Dispatch 31. Exhibit-1.
22 Nov. 1856

Copy.

U. S. Flag Ship. "San Jacinto"
Whampoa, 15th Nov. 1856.

Sir,

It is very desirable that you should be here at this time. I am informed by Commander Foote, that our Countrymen have removed all their treasure, books & merchandize from Canton to Hong Kong. or to places of security nothing but their furniture is remaining at Canton.

I am desirous of seeing & consulting with you on the subject of what is best to be done in the present state of affairs at Canton.

My cold & cough are better than when we separated at Macao.

With my respectful compliments to Mrs Parker.

I am,
Very Respectfully
Your Obed. Servt.
(Signed.) Jas Armstrong.
Comdg U. S. Naval Forces
East India & China Seas.

His Excellency.
Hon: Peter Parker
Commissioner
to China
Macao

Copy.

Circular

Her Britannic Majesty's Consul has received the instructions of His Excellency Rear Admiral Sir M. Seymour, K.C.B., Naval Commander in Chief &c. &c. &c. to issue the following Notice to the British Community.

His Excellency feels it unnecessary to recapitulate to the British community the origin and progress of what has been done at Canton during the last few weeks by Her Majesty's Naval Forces under his Command, their loss has been happily trifling, and these operations, now including the capture of the Bogue forts, eminently successful.

His Excellency regrets to find that neither the extreme measures to which the Imperial Commissioner's defiance of treaty obligations has compelled him to resort, nor the plain proof given that the City and its inhabitants are at the mercy of H.M. Ships of War have as yet induced the Imperial Commissioner to make the Concession demanded by H.E. as a guarantee against future misunderstanding of a similar nature as the present. the Concession is not regarded as unreasonable by Chinese, who, H.E. understands adequately represent the feeling of the respectable inhabitants of Canton, nor is any tangible objection to it alleged by these except the impracticability of the Commissioner himself, who has labored to associate the people with him, by representing the English as in league with rebels and outlaws and has pushed hostility to the ferocious length of proclaiming rewards for the lives of English subjects without distinction.

His Excellency is determined that his

demand shall be conceded: but the Community must be well aware that any course H.E. may now contemplate would be compromised by publicity. H.E. therefore confines himself to stating that he sees no immediate prospect of restoration of quiet. The security of the foreign position will be as well cared for as heretofore. The nature and object of any measures now to be resorted to H.E. deems it advisable to keep to himself.

(Signed) Harry S. Parkes
H.B.M. Consul
Officiating at Canton

British Consulate,
Canton, China, Novr. 14th 1856.

True copy.
A. Vanden Kamel
Commodore's Secretary.

3 1 Despatch 31. Exhibit 2.
22 Nov. 1856.

(Copy)

United States Consulate.
Canton 10th Nov. 1856.
(Recd Macao P. M. 15th Nov. 1856.)

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 8th inst. requesting me to report "the state of affairs at Canton, generally & particularly, so far as the safety of the life & property of American citizens is concerned."

On the 8th inst. (the date of your despatch) as soon as I heard of your arrival at Hong Kong, I addressed you a communication giving you a detailed account of the daily occurrence of the past two weeks; & I now avail myself of the earliest opportunity to inform Your Excellency in reply, that up to the present moment no damage, either personal or real, has been suffered by American residents at this Port, (excepting the loss sustained by American Merchants

To. by

His Excellency
Peter Parker
U. S. Commissioner.

by the stoppage of trade on the part of Chinese Merchants / other than the destruction by fire of the houses & furniture belonging to the Reverends S.B. French & J. Preston. At this moment every thing is perfectly quiet, but how long such a state of affairs will last it is impossible to conjecture, thus far the Chinese have been acting entirely on the defensive, but I am satisfied, from the communications that I have received from H.E. Governor Yeh that he intends to repel force by force.

It is rumored that Admiral Sir M. Seymour will tomorrow with all his available force attack the Bogue Forts, it is supposed the Chinese will make a strong resistance, but of the final result, there can be little or no doubt.

In my last communication I informed you, that I had addressed several communications to the Imperial Commissioner (Copies of which I enclose marked A. B & C.) & which in consequence of my not having an Interpreter to translate them into the Chinese Language, I was obliged to forward in English. Yesterday they were returned to me with a letter from the Imperial Commissioner

stating that he was unacquainted with the English language & requesting that I would have them written in Chinese & returned to him.

Yesterday I received another communication from the Imperial Commissioner (a copy of which I enclose marked D.)

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most Obed. Servt.

(Signed.) Oliver H. Perry

4

U. S. Consulate
(Copy.) Canton 21st Oct. 1856.

Sir.

I enclose you herewith a copy of an official communication, that I received this evening from Harry S. Parkes Esqre H. B. Mts Consul. —

From the tenor of Consul Parkes' despatch, you will perceive that a collision may possibly arise within 24 hours, between H. B. Mts forces, & the Chinese, & as the lives & property of American Citizens, may be thereby placed in jeopardy, I have taken the earliest opportunity to notify you of the danger, in order, that you may timely place a proper & sufficient force here to protect American lives & property.

I am Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servt.
(Signed) O. H. Perry.
U. S. Consul

To.
Commander
Andrew H. Foote Esqre
Comdg. U. S. S. "Portsmouth." —
Whampoa

5

(Copy.)

U. S. Consulate.

Canton 22nd October 1856.

Sir,

Having been officially informed by H. B. Mts Consul that difficulties have arisen between the representatives of H. B. Mts Government and Your Excellency, which are likely to result in immediate hostilities between H. B. Mts forces & those of His Majesty the Emperor of China; I consider it my duty to send you this communication to state that this affair, in no manner concerns the Government of the United States.

I therefore claim the protection of Your Excellency against all attacks likely to be made by the Chinese, on the Foreign Factories, or elsewhere, for all American Citizens & residents enjoying American protection, as provided for by Article 19th of the Treaty entered into on the 3rd day of July 1844 between the Government of the United States & His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of ~~China~~.

I respectfully request that in

His Excellency Yeë

Imperial High Commissioner,

Governor General of the ~~two~~ Kwangs

&c &c &c

accordance

accordance with the stipulations of the Treaty the American Flag as well as persons & property of American Citizens, shall be carefully respected, & the latter efficiently protected by Your Excellency

I have the honor to be,

Respectfully,

Your Excellency's

Humble & Obedient Servant.

(Signed) Oliver H. Perry.

U. S. Consul.

(Copy.)

United States Consulate
Canton 1st Nov.r 1856.

Sir.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's communication of the 27th inst: informing me that in consequence of the probability of a general engagement taking place between the forces under your command & the English, that Your Excellency will not be at leisure to protect the residences of American Citizens, & that if any damage is sustained I must hold W.m Consul Parkes responsible & require him to make it good.

The undersigned deplores exceedingly that hostilities should have been commenced, but as hostilities were caused by acts altogether without the assistance or Connivance of the American Authorities, the undersigned must insist that the Article 19th of the Treaty of Wang Hia must be fully complied with. Said Article states that "All citizens of the United States in China peaceably "attending to their affairs, being placed on a "common footing of Amity & good will with subjects "of China, shall receive & enjoy for themselves and "every thing appertaining to them, the special

protection

"protection of the local Authorities of Government,
"who shall defend them from all insult or
"injury of any sort on the part of the Chinese.
"If their dwellings or property be threatened or attacked
"by mobs, incendiaries, or other violent and lawless
"persons, the local Officers on requisition of the
"Consul, will immediately dispatch a military
"force to disperse the rioters, & will apprehend
"the guilty individuals & punish them with the
"utmost rigor of the law."—

And the Undersigned protests in the name of the United States of America, against the Government of His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of China, for all damages suffered, & to be suffered by reason of the violation of the Chinese Government of the 19th Article of the Treaty of Wang Hia, entered into between the United States of America & the Chinese Empire on the 3rd day of July 1844.—

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obed. Serv.t

C. H. Perry

To (Signed) U. S. Consul

His Excellency

Yeh

Governor General of the two Kwangs

&c &c &c

7

(Copy.)

U. S. Consulate.
(Canton 1st Nov. 1856.)

Sir.

The Undersigned Consul of the United States of America, has been informed that Your Excellency has issued a proclamation offering a reward of thirty Dollars, for every foreigners head, & as the words, every foreigner, would certainly include Americans: the Undersigned finds it necessary to address Your Excellency this communication, to enquire whether it was Your Excellency's intention to include Americans in your proclamation, & if not, I have to request that Your Excellency will issue another proclamation, exempting all Americans from arrest & decapitation, & I should also request that Your Excellency will furnish me with a copy of the same.

As I have already notified Your Excellency, that the American Ships of War, have in no manner, assisted or aided the English in their attack upon the City of Canton

To. His Excellency.

Yeë

Governor General of the Two Kwangs.

&c. &c. &c.

Canton & I expect that your excellency will immediately accede to my request. & promptly reply to this communication

I am,

Sir,

Your Most Obed.t Serv.t

Signed Olivier H. Perry

U. S. Consul

(Copy.) U. S. Consulate.
Canton 1st Novr 1846.

Sir.

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency, that two American Ships have applied for their clearance papers, & are prepared to pay the duties due to the Chinese Customs, but, as there is no Shroff, or Custom House Officer here to receive said duties, I shall be compelled to allow all American Ships to proceed to sea, without the payment of duties, unless Your Excellency forthwith appoints a proper Officer to receive the same, as required by the 13th Article of the Treaty entered into on the 3rd day of July 1844. between the Government of the United States of America, & his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China.-

I have the honor to be.

Sir,

Your most Obed. Servt.

(signed.) Olivier H. Perry.
U. S. Consul.

To His Excellency.

Yie.

Governor General of the two Kiwangs.

&c. &c. &c.

(Copy.)

9

On the 11th Day of the 10th moon the communication of the Consul was received, but on opening it, it was discovered that it was written in the Characters of his nation, which the high Minister being unacquainted with he returns that it may be written in Chinese Characters, & again sent in.—

Seang Fung:
6th Year, 10th Moon. 11th day.
(8th Nov.r 1856).—

The Imperial Commissioner to The American Consul.

I formerly received the communication of the Consul requesting protection in consequence of existing difficulties between the English & Chinese. to which I replied on the 26th & 29th of the 9th month. all which is recorded.

Seeing now that the English have for several consecutive days attacked the Provincial City whereof the people are aroused & much excitement exists amongst them (for they are determined, that the two powers cannot exist, one or the other must be exterminated) it is to be apprehended that in the midst of hostilities, they would be unable, to distinguish the people of your nation, from those of others, & therefore it is desirable that they (the people of your country) had better remove & thus avoid danger. Again on the 7th day of the 10th moon, I received a similar communication which is recorded also.

I moreover hear that several armed vessels of your nation, are at the Provincial City for the purpose of protection, together with

are

an armed force; It is also difficult to distinguish between the vessels of war of one nation & those of another. Now if your people remove elsewhere, their presence (the men of war would not be required, & they also had better go too) would not be required. & the doubt of the people removed. Such is my desire, for now the two Nations being at peace, with each other this request is made with all the importance the case demands.

Again, with regard to a Steamer of your nation, which was fired at by a Fort near Heang Shan, I caused an examination to be made. The inhabitants of that district have in reply stated, that on occasion of the firing it was done in ignorance of the nationality of the vessel fired at. The fort in question was erected by the inhabitants, in the 4th year of 'Heang Fung' as a protection against theives & robbers. Moreover at present in consequence of the existing state of affairs, with the English, the Forts & Defences of every place, are manned & armed lest robbers should take advantage of it & appear. — Further it is known that foreign vessels have not been in the habits of sailing about the waters of

Heang Thang &c &c

I now therefore in making this communication to the Consul, request that he will inform all the ships people of his Nation, that hereafter they must not sail about the waters of Heang Thang, & such like places, in order that doubts & suspicions may not arise in the minds of the people.

A necessary communication addressed to.

Oliver H. Perry Esqre
U. S. Consul.

Heang Fung.
6th year. 10th Moon 13th day.
(10th Novr 1856.)

Dispatch 31. – Exhibit – 2

22 Nov.r 1856.

11

Copy.

Legation of the United States.

U. S. S. Frigate "San Jacinto."

Whampoa. 19th Nov.r 1856.

Sir.

The recent unexpected hostile attack upon the flag of the United States by the Chinese forts near the barrier; calling for & receiving at the hands of the Commander in Chief of the U. S. Naval forces, in China, a prompt rebuke, & the emergency thus created rendering it necessary to recall the Naval force stationed at Canton for the protection of the persons & property of American Citizens & full explanations and satisfaction for this violation of our Treaty & the laws of Nations not yet having been received. I learn from Commodore Armstrong that at present it is impracticable to return that force to Canton, & it is uncertain whether in the course of events he will be able to do so.

You will therefore notify the Citizens of the U States. at Canton accordingly, leaving

Olivier H. Perry Esq.re
U. S. Consul.
Canton

leaving them to judge & determine for themselves, whether under the circumstances it will not be best for them to retire from that City pending the adjustment of existing difficulties.

I remain,
Sir,
Respectfully
Your obed.t Serv.t
Peter Parker.

Despatch 31. Exhibit A.
22nd Nov. 1856.

Copy. 12

United States Flag Ship "San Jacinto"
Whampoa, 17th November 1856.

Sir,

I regret to have to notify Your Excellency that it became my duty on the 16th inst. to assault & silence the works known as the "Barrier forts" on the river between Whampoa & Canton. The following are the unpleasant circumstances which imposed this duty upon me.

On the 15th inst. a boat of the U.S. Ship "Portsmouth", in which were Commander Foote of the Portsmouth with other officers of my command, & Citizens of the United States, in passing peaceably to Canton was repeatedly fire upon, by both round & grape shot from these forts, & impeded in her course upon waters in which she had a right to be, & to expect protection rather than assault. No possible mistake could exist as to the Nationality of the boat, as she bore, not only the flag of her Country but it was waved distinctly towards the forts by Mr. Sturgess of Canton.

This outrage is the more unjustifiable because during the hostilities existing between Your Government & the English Authorities in China, it has been the endeavor both of myself & the officers under my command carefully to preserve that neutral position proper to the friendly relations existing between the Governments of the United States and of the Chinese Empire. The Officer, Commander Foote, who was the subject of this hostile assault, has been specially cautious & prudent in maintaining the neutrality, & prompt in checking any measure which might infring it. At the very time he was fired upon His Excellency he

Yeh

Imperial Commissioner &c &c &c

Canton

he was on his way to Canton to withdraw the American forces, which had been landed to protect the lives & property of American Citizens during the unsettled state of affairs in Canton, at the commencement of the difficulties before alluded to. It was my wish to trust the security of neutrals & their interests to the obligations & the sense of justice of Your Excellency's Government.

Having taken the means now communicated to you, to redress the outrage upon & the insult to the flag of the United States, I now ask of Your Excellency an explanation of the attack made upon that flag, & a proper guarantee for its future security.

Unless a satisfactory reply of Your Excellency, to this communication shall be returned within twenty four hours from the delivery of this note, I shall take such further steps as I may deem the gravity of the occasion require.

Very Respectfully

&c &c &c

(Signed.) Jas Armstrong
Commander in Chief of the U. S. Naval
Forces in the East Indies & China Seas.

L. S.

True Copy.
Thos. J. Reynolds.

Despatch 31. - Exhibit B
22nd Nov. 1856.

Copy. — Translation. —

Yeh Imperial Commissioner, Governor General of the two Kwangs &c &c hereby replies upon business.

On the 19th inst I received Your Excellency's communication, & have made myself acquainted with its contents. The American Consul Perry previously informed me that in consequence of the difficulties between the Chinese & English, he desired that protection might be given (to Americans), to which I replied on the 24th ult. After the English cannonaded the City of Canton, the people were all in a state of unmanageable excitement, & I was afraid that I might have no leisure to look after their protection, of which I informed him on the 27th ult. Subsequent to that day, the gentry & people came to me, representing that American men of war were stealthily coming to that place, & that it was not proper, having regard to the constant good will & intercourse between China & the United States, for them thus to be helping the English attack the city; & this I stated to Mr Perry, that he might make inquiry & inform me. —

Furthermore, seeing that the people of Canton are now engaged in a struggle with the English, in which one of the parties must succumb, & being afraid lest I might not be able to extend protection to the Americans, I deemed the best course would be for their Merchants & people to withdraw, for then all risk of becoming involved would be avoided, & learning also that men of war were off Canton to protect, it might be difficult to distinguish to what country they belonged in the event of an engagement with troops. If, however, the Merchants & citizens would move away, the men of war being uncalled for, would follow them

them, all risk of a chance would or becoming involved would be taken away, & all apprehension & doubt (of their intentions) on the minds of the natives would also be removed. These important considerations I communicated to Mr Perry on the 4th & 10th inst. for his information. Knowing the amicable relations which have long existed with the United States, I spared no trouble in repeating these things often to him, supposing that he would make them known in detail to Your Excellency.

Why then did American vessels again pass these forts, & that too at a time when our troops were on the alert & very watchful? An American man of war can be distinguished from an English one or from her troops, only by her flag; but from a long distance the two cannot instantly be discriminated. It should be remembered, too, that the minds of the people are now much excited & confused, & it is not surprising if it be difficult to prevent mistakes and {false unauthorized} acts among them. I have already said so & repeated my remarks, but they were all taken as if no one heard or paid attention to them.

Your declarations in this letter now received, therefore, respecting so inexcusably firing upon & insulting the flag, is what I request may be carefully noted, for I, the Governor General, really fearful that just such an occurrence might take place, thought of it beforehand, & with the best intentions on my part so informed Mr Perry. Why, I ask, did he not let Your Excellency know it?

Hereafter, if American vessels, large or small, do not pass these forts then all will be harmonious & properly arranged. For this end, I send this reply, & wishing Your Excellency the greatest happiness

and

and good will.

To Commodore Armstrong.
Commander in Chief of U.S. Naval forces in
East India & China Seas.

Canton 20th Novr. 1856.

True translation. (Signed) S. Wells Williams
Sec. & Interpreter to Legation to China

True Copy.
Thos. J. Reynolds.

Despatch 31. Inclosure C

22nd Nov. 1856.

(Copy.) 14 United States Flag Ship "San Jacinto"

Whampoa. 20th November 1856.

Sir.

On the 17th inst. I had the honor to address Your Excellency a communication informing Your Excellency that I had attacked & silenced the "Barrier Forts" for an unprovoked outrage upon one of the boats of this Squadron. Not wishing to convey measures of redress into those of aggression I suspended fire upon the offending forts until I could receive an explanation from Your Excellency. Availing himself of this forbearance the officer in charge of the forts was observed renewing and strengthening his means of assault I therefore was compelled to order this hostile movement to be stopped; & the result (the occupation of one of your forts by a part of my force & its destruction), has I presume been communicated to Your Excellency by the Officer in command.

Your reply to my communication has this moment, seven o'clock P.M. reached me, & considering the desire expressed by Your Excellency to preserve friendly relations with the United States at the time of the assault upon my boat, - it is very much to be regretted that the reply of Your Excellency, just received, is not more satisfactory. You do not give me any guarantee that the flag of the United States shall have that safety upon the waters under Your Excellency's jurisdiction, to which the amicable relations of the Countries would entitle it. Upon the contrary, You intimate that if it attempts to pass these forts, it must expect insult & hostility. Whatever may be Your Excellency's purpose in these declarations, & I trust you have not considered

it.

His Excellency

Yeh

Imperial Commissioner

&c &c &c

Canton

its extent, it amounts to a declaration of war upon the Flag of the United States, which has the same right as that of any other nation holding peaceable relations with the Chinese Empire, to free & peaceable passage on its waters. And it now becomes my duty to take such steps as I may deem proper to secure it that right. But, I assure Your Excellency there has not been the least intention, nor is there the least wish on my part to engage in unprovoked hostilities against the Chinese Empire.

I therefore, shall be most happy to learn from Your Excellency that you have removed the necessity of continued hostile action, by providing for the flag & for the citizens of the United States that security under Your Excellency's government, to which they are entitled, & which will result in the happy restoration of peaceful relations.

Very Respectfully
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) Jas. Armstrong.
Commander in Chief of the United States
Naval forces in the East Indies & China Seas.

L. S.

True Copy:
Thos. J. Reynolds

15

Despatch No 31. Exhibit D

22nd Novr 1856.

Copy.

British Canton Consulate.

20th Novr 1856.

My dear Dr Parker,

I think it is of the greatest importance that you & the Commodore should visit our Admiral & me. Yeh is inexorable & has returned a most unsatisfactory answer to my communication. —

If Commodore Armstrong & yourself could come up that would be the best plan perhaps. — If not, Sir M. Seymour & I would come down to you to-morrow. Pray let me know which it shall be.

We have thrown shell & shell into the Pagoda beyond the wall of the City into the camp. also the among the Yamuns of the Governor & the Tartar General, but all in vain.

We can hardly fail in effecting much if we move harmoniously together.

Very truly Yours

(Signed.) John Bowring.

True Copy.

Thos J Reynolds

16

(Copy.)

U. S. S. "San Jacinto."
Whampoa. 20th Novr 1856.

My dear Sir John.

Your note of this date is at hand. In reply I have to say, Commodore & myself will (D.V.) visit Canton tomorrow A.M. when it will afford us much pleasure to meet you & Sir Michl Seymour. We have favorable reports from our vessels at the Barrier forts. The first on the right as we ascend the river (on the North bank) is in our possession & the others believed to be now easily reduced. Yeh is either insane or a very great & self-possessed General. I think the former.

I am happy to learn the only wounds sustained by our men have been accidentally self inflicted. two marines killed by accidental discharge of a rifle.—

Yours Ever Sincerely
(Signed)— Peter Parker.

His Excellency.
Sir John Bowring L.L.D.
H.B.M. Plenipotentiary &c &c &c
to China
Canton.

Despatch No. 31. - Exhibit D

22nd Nov. 1856

14

Memoranda.

21st Nov. 1856.

In company with Commodore Armstrong visited Canton, at the instance of Sir John Bowring, with a view to meet His Excellency & Admiral Sir Michael Seymour for a friendly conference under the existing state of our mutual relations with the Authorities of this Province. The interview was held at the British Consulate. — Sir John Bowring informed us his correspondence with the Imperial Commissioner Yé had been most unsatisfactory & that he now turned the matter over to the Naval Commander in chief, but had received no reply. He remarked that the conduct of the Commissioner was unfathomable & that he was probably looking forward to deification. Sir John informed us that the project of communicating with Peking on the present is abandoned. — A material objection to so doing, is the possibility of its being construed about as an indication of weakness. & an invocation of its interposition to extricate them from difficulty, but that hereafter a full representation will be made.

Admiral Seymour alluded to his demand for the entrè to the City of all foreign officials & his motives. that it was a subject of like interest to all, & Sir John reiterated that his instructions were to cooperate with the other treaty powers, & that H. B. Majesty's Government had no exclusive aims. — I reminded the Admiral each of the three treaties provide that whatever additional advantages were conceded to one should accrue to the others &c Both Sir John & the Admiral understood & appreciated the cause of the withdrawal of the U. S. force at Canton, but deprecated the

moral

moral effect upon the Chinese of the withdrawal of either of the other flags. Commodore Armstrong stated in few words his position. That the flag of his Squadron had been fired upon & that his object was to avenge the insult. Stated what he had done & was doing, but as to the future, it remained to be seen what might become his duty. What he had done, had been of service to the English, which the Admiral & Sir John Bowring promptly acknowledged.

I reiterated the views & policy indicated in my note to Sir John of the 17th inst. After the Commodore & Admiral retired, I had a few moments with Sir John who stated distinctly the course His Excellency in cooperation with the Admiral had resolved upon, to hold the City, repelling attacks, & await instructions from the home Government, that they must have regard to their Military supplies & not to exhaust them to such an extent as not to be prepared for any emergency. - Large supplies have already been ordered from Singapore. Four large Steamers & six gun boats are on their way.

The chief solicitude expressed by His Excellency as respects France & the United States seemed to be that our flags should remain. & did not ask for ought beyond, & was gratified to learn there is no present intention of doing so. He remarked that it was an extraordinary position of the Chinese, that on account of a broil with the English they should assume to say to a great Nation you must get out of the way. -

C. C.

Despatch 31. - Exhibit E

22 Nov. 1856.

18

(Copy)

No 25.

U. S. Consulate.

Fuh Chow fu. 17th Oct. 1856.

Sir,

I herewith forward you two communications from the Vice-Roy to your address. It affords me very great pleasure to say that His Excellency has complied with my wishes & his promise, so far as to issue his proclamation relative to the murder of Mr Cunningham. I send you by this messenger a copy of the same. Consul Medhurst informs me that it is a very fair proclamation, Davy Interpreter says it is all I have asked. I hope it will prove so.

One of the communications to you I understand, is a request that you will direct me to pay up the duties now due, amounting to seventy five thousand two hundred and sixty eight dollars 7/100. - I shall not do so unless I obtain from you a positive order to the contrary, but hold the same until the murderer is punished according to the Chinese law. The Prefect is in trouble with the Vice Roy. The latter thinks the former has not done his duty promptly

16

He positively refused to allow him to be present at the interview which I had with him. The Hai Quain (the collector of customs) visited me, told me on yesterday of the above circumstances, and said, if I could not obtain what I wished from the Prefect, that the Vice Roy had instructed him to say to me that at any time I desired an interview with him, that I could have one, that he was determined to have the Treaty faithfully observed. If so it will be a very great change it will relieve me from all the disagreeable labor which heretofore I have been troubled with. You can form but little idea what a relief I have already experienced. The authorities have been taught that the best thing for them to do is to carry out faithfully the obligations of the Treaty. I firmly believe that the lesson will be a most salutary one, it will induce them in future promptly to redress a wrong. In this opinion I am sustained by the unanimous voice of the foreign community here. I sincerely trust that we shall not be disappointed. If the course I have taken here has in truth taught the Authorities a lesson it has fully confirmed

an opinion which I have long entertained, viz.- that it is only necessary to take a firm & decided stand to compel the Chinese Government to comply with the terms of the treaty, & that is all that our Government desires. I repeat my recommendation that in all cases where it can be done without detriment to other interest, a ship of war should visit this port if only for a few days as often as possible. The effect will be that the Authorities will understand that in case of any trouble a force would be near at hand tho' a short time could be in port.

I have made up my mind to settle with the Authorities here, (before paying over the duties due) for the money stolen at Yeu-ping-foo in May 1855: & I also think of charging them fifteen thousand dollars, as indemnity for not punishing the offenders who committed the outrage upon the two officers of the "Vandalia." In all my interviews with the Authorities, I have told them that upon the punishment of the murderers of Mr. Cunningham I should pay them the amount justly due. In every case I have alluded to our difficulties of old standing & the absolute necessity of settling all matters and starting with a clear record. Please give me your views in

relation

relation to the latter part of this communication.

I remain with great respect

Dear Sir

Your Obedient Servant.

(Signed.) Caleb Jones.

U. S. Consul.

His Excellency

Peter Parker.

U. S. Commissioner & Minister Plenipotentiary

to China

Now in Shang Hae

Despatch 31. Exhibit E

22nd Nov. 1856.

Copy. / 19 United States Consulate.
No 26. Swatow 31st October 1856.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 18th inst. I am extremely gratified with it, & particularly for the Copy of yours of the 10th inst. to Sir John Bowring. The facts which you enumerate in it are very valuable to me. I shall of course use them as a defensive weapon if occasion requires.

It is very gratifying to report that nearly 'all is well' here.

The proclamation of the Vice Roy has been posted in the most conspicuous places, & the very best feeling seems to pervail towards me by the Authorities. There is still room for improvement in the Prefect, but he seems to be doing much better than heretofore, as you may judge from the fact that a few days since, I informed him of the pilot boat 'Atalanta' belonging to my Countrymen, having been driven on shore in a gale of wind at a place called 'Hae Jan' (an island about 40 miles from here) but instead of those on board receiving protection from the villagers, they were plundered of every thing they had, & the Schooner broken up & carried off. The loss is fully three thousand five hundred dollars. I called upon the prefect to have the affair fully investigated, the offenders punished, & the property restored or paid for &c &c. The very next day he replied, & said, he would have the Authorities of the village examined, that a strict investigation should take place, & all who could be identified should be severely dealt with, the stolen property restored &c. I trust that it may be so.

I note particularly your remarks relative

relative to friendly feelings between foreign Consuls such has always been my object.—

It is with pleasure I learn the U.S. Ship "Portsmouth" will visit this port on her way to Shang Hae. Such visits are always beneficial.

You may be sure I shall keep you fully advised of affairs at this port. I have not your acknowledgement of my despatch No. 21. dated 24th Sept.

I have the honor to remain
With great respect
Your Obed. Servant,
(Signed) Caleb Jones.
U.S. Consul.

His Excellency
Peter Parker
U.S. Commissioner
& Minister Plenipotentiary to China.
Now in Shang Hae.

Despatch 31. Exhibit
22nd Nov. 1856.

Copy.
No 27.

United States Consulate
Fah Chow. 11th Nov. 1856.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 28th Oct. with it a copy of Sir John Bowring's letter to you of the 10th of October

As a principle affecting treaty obligations Sir John is undoubtedly right in denying my authority "to release Her Majesty's subjects from treaty obligations". I have never attempted to exercise any such power. It is however true that I have taken bonds from the parties interested here (British subjects) "to pay the duties due on the American ship "Kingfisher" upon my order to the Chinese Superintendent of Customs".- I consented to this arrangement against my own judgment at the earnest request of H. M. Consul. the parties interested, & the Merchants of our own Country. I would have much preferred to have adhered strictly to my Circular of the 24th of Sept. My principle object in yielding to the wishes of others was to avoid any trouble with British subjects. shipping in American Ships, for you must know that previous to my taking the bonds in question Her Majesty's Consul had released Her Majesty's subjects from so much of the treaty obligations as provides for the payment of duties to the Chinese officials. It is to be regretted that Sir John Bowring did not know this fact, at the time he wrote you. He would then have been relieved from denying what I never affirmed. From the very commencement of our troubles I have been decidedly to any but our own Countrymen, withholding the duties from the Chinese Authorities,

as

as I felt confident that others with holding them would embarrass me very much. I am now as I have been all of the time willing & anxious that H. Bs subjects should pay every dollar due on American Ships to the Superintendent of Customs. And this H. B. Ms Plenipotentiary would have known had facts been as promptly communicated as misrepresentations appear to have been. I cannot conceal my utter astonishment at H. B. Ms Plenipotentiary denying the "validity of the promissory note" - Does he mean to say that if perchance this question should come before him, he would release the parties from the obligations of the bond? If so then indeed is the "honor of my countrymen" better than the bonds of his. My chief anxiety at present is to free myself from such "co-operation" as I have had from outside parties. - With your aid I can manage, successfully too, all of our troubles here. The best feeling prevails. only yesterday the "Hae Quan" informed me, that it would not be long before orders would be received from Peking respecting the murderer of Mr Cunningham. Until that time arrives I sincerely hope that the American & Chinese Authorities will be permitted to settle their own affairs in their own way, without the "unwarrantable" interference of third parties.

I have the honor to remain
With great respect
Your Obed. Servt
Caleb Jones
U. S. Consul

His Excellency
Peter Parker.
U. S. Commissioner
&c —— &c —— &c
Hong Kong.

Br. P's No. 31
21 (Copy.)

Despatch 31. – Exhibit. – E
22nd Nov. 1856.

Superintendency of Trade.
No. 263. Hong Kong. 15th Nov. 1856.

Sir,

In the present state of affairs at Canton, it has been suggested to me that I should send a steamer to the Gulf of Pih. Chi. le for the purpose of endeavouring to communicate to the Court of Peking an authentic account of what has taken place.

As I conceive the question originally involving violation of the Treaty conditions as regards the British flag alone, has now expanded into one of immense importance, affecting the whole of our diplomatic relations with China, & I am earnestly desirous of preserving that harmony of purpose, & unity of action which Her Britannic Majesty's Government desires me to maintain with the Representatives of the Treaty powers, I beg you will kindly give me your opinion as to the opportunity & propriety of the step in question at the present moment, & if decided on, inform His Excellency.

Dr. Peter Parker
U. S. Commissioner in China
&c &c &c

me

me whether Your Excellency would think it a fit occasion for your making one of Her Majesty's Steamers the channel of any communication to the Cabinet of Peking.-

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient,

Humble Servant.

(Signed.) John Bowring.

Despatch 31. Exhibit F

2 2d Nov. 1856.

22

(Copy)

Legation of the United States.
U. S. S. Frigate "San Jacinto."
Whampoa 17th Nov. 1856.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, at Shang Hae, of Your Excellency's despatch of the 17th Oct. acquainting me with the fact of the violation of Treaties by the seizure of Chinese subjects on board a British ship without the intervention of the Consular functionaries, & that having failed to obtain becoming satisfaction, Your Excellency had, in cooperation with Her Majesty's Naval forces seized an Imperial War Junk at Canton, & expressing confidence that that step would prevent the necessity of ulterior measures.

I have also the honor to be in receipt of the despatch Your Excellency has been pleased to address me of the 15th inst. in which Your Excellency informs me that the question which originally Your Excellency conceived to involve the violation of the Treaty conditions as regards the British flag alone, has now expanded into one of immense importance, affecting the whole

of

of our diplomatic relations with China. Your Excellency also acquaints me that it has been suggested to send a Steamer to the Gulf of Pih-Chi-le for the purpose of endeavouring to communicate to the Court of Peking an authentic account of what has taken place, & referring to the harmony of purpose, & Unity of action, so important to be pursued between the Treaty powers, requests my opinion as to the opportunity & propriety of the step in question, & if decided on that I would inform Your Excellency if I think it a fit occasion for my making one of Her Majesty's Steamers the channel of any communications to the Court of Pekin?

In reply I beg to assure Your Excellency of the fullest & most sincere reciprocation of the earnest desire to pursue that harmony of purpose & unity of action on the part of the Treaty powers in all matters of common right & interest under the treaties, but in all questions specifically affecting one of these powers in relation to China the others I conceive cannot participate. Such was the original occasion of the measures which have evolved the present state of political & commercial affairs at Canton, which

Your

Your Excellency observes now affect the whole of our diplomatic relations with China, but, it is important to record, this has been in a manner in which the government of the United States has been passive & neutral.

There is one particular in which the whole of our diplomatic relations with China are affected, to which in the kindest spirit I wish to call Your Excellency's attention.- If I am correctly informed, one of the demands of H. B. Mts government made of that of China is the entrè of "all foreign officials to the City of Canton".- If such be the case, it has been without the knowledge of the Representative of the United States, & without previous deliberation or assent on his part, & whilst appreciating the generous motive that prompted His Excellency Sir M Seymour to the act, I must disclaim in behalf of the government of the United States the right to perform it & shall be happy to learn from Your Excellency that I am misinformed in relation to this point.

Of the paramount importance of laying before the Court at Peking an authentic account of that has taken place at Canton,

there

there can be no doubt. The only questions that occur to me, are as to the time & manner, & were I fully informed, so far as it can be consistently done, of Your Excellency's policy & determination, I should be better able to express an opinion. My present conviction is, that if Your Excellency is resolved to press the question at issue to a speedy solution, there will be a manifest advantage in deferring the Representations to Peking till the whole matter is concluded. If the object of the appeal to the Imperial Court is as a means to facilitate the termination of the difficulty, the earlier the better, but the lateness of the season, & the possibility of a disinclination to receive Your Excellency's despatch on the part of the Authorities at Ta Koo or Tien Tsin, form in my mind a serious objection to dispatching at this time one of Her Majesty's steamers to the Gulf of Pih Chi. li., & I should deem the Vice Roy of the Leeong Keang a more expeditious & eligible channel of communicating with the Cabinet. & I have confidence that through that medium, directly or indirectly, Your Excellency's despatch will unquestionably reach the Court.

I have no occasion, or disposition, to communicate further with the Northern

Capital

Capital on matters concerning the Government of the United States, until it can be done in person the ensuing season, & as I trust by the Representatives of each of the Treaty Powers, in a manner that shall disarm resistance, & ensure success. –

Permit me to avail myself of this occasion to assure Your Excellency of my lively sense of the high importance to China and to all Western Nations of the controversy now pending. The ostensible question of the present dispute, satisfaction for violation of the Treaty in the case of a British Ship, & the entrance to the City of Canton, are trifles compared with the questions at the foundation of all our grievances, viz. Are the Treaty Powers, the equals of China to say the least, to be acknowledged & treated as such by the Manchow Government? So far as the Government of the United States is concerned, the time of revising their treaty is the period contemplated for the settlement of these questions, & I apprehend it had been Your Excellency's choice, so far as H. B. Mys Government is concerned. To have availed yourself of the same occasion & probably

the

the like might be affirmed of the Government of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of France But unexpectedly the question has been unwillingly, so far as Your Excellency is concerned, precipitated by the Imperial Commissioner Yeh as respects Great Britain, & having precipitated upon a point, the entrance to the City of Canton, upon which Her Majesty's Government has taken stand, & upon which that of the United States, has not, & Your Excellency having specific instructions & authority thereon. Your Excellency's position differs materially from that of your colleagues, the Representatives in China of France & the United States. Whilst the Government of the United States is, & must remain, neutral in the controversy solely initiated by H. B. Mc Government, & specifically British in its origin, though in its expansion & consequences affecting all our diplomatic relations, Your Excellency may rest assured of the deep interest I feel in the success of the measures adopted to bring to a speedy & satisfactory conclusion the present contest, & the attainment of an end so replete with interest, social, commercial and political to China, & ultimately to all the Treaty Powers.

I have the honor to be,

Sir

Sir.

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient

Humble Servant.

Peter Parker.

To His Excellency

Sir John Bowring L.L.D.

H. B. Mc Plenipotentiary in China.

&c —— &c —— &c

Hong Kong or Canton.

Despatch 31. Exhibit F

22 Nov: 1856.

(Copy.)

23

No. 266.

Superintendency of Trade.
H.B.M. Consulate.
Canton 18th Nov: 1856.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge Your Excellency's Despatch of yesterday's date.

I cordially welcome the friendly & reiterated expressions of a desire on the part of Your Excellency to promote harmonious co-operation with the Representatives of the other Treaty Powers. I am persuaded that the more this unity of purpose & action can be maintained the more will the common interest be advanced.

It was with a view to eliciting Your Excellency's opinion with regard to the influence of such a measure upon our general position & ulterior objects that I communicated a suggestion which had been made, recommending the despatch of one of Her Majesty's Steamers to the Gulf of Pih-Chi-le.

As our policy in China has never been of an exclusive character, & we have not sought advantages for ourselves to the prejudice of other nations, His Excellency the Naval Commander in Chief

did

did not ask the privileges of personal interview with the Imperial Commissioner for British Officials alone. If such a privilege be granted, the exercise of it becomes clearly a question for the independant action of the Representatives of other powers.

With regard to the City Question His Excellency Sir Michael Seymour has confined his demand to the concession of personal official communications within the City to those who are invested with authority to treat with the Mandarins in matters of importance. The British Government has always insisted on the right of Her Majesty's Subjects to enter the City — has never abandoned the claim, nor authorized its abandonment, but the general question was not that insisted on by the Naval Commander in Chief.

I shall be most happy to confer with Your Excellency on the best measures now to be taken in the furtherance of objects which intimately and mutually concern us in our relations with China which may materially influence the results of that all-important object so strongly recommended to us by our respective Governments,

named

namely, the revision of existing Treaties with this Country, & the accomplishment of which object is undoubtedly our paramount Duty.—

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient

Humble Servant,

(Signed.) John Bowring.

His Excellency.

Dr. Peter Parker

United States Commissioner in China.

&c &c &c

Rec'd 13 April. Mr Dench

Legation of the United States.
Macao 11 December 1856.

To the Honorable.
The Secretary of State of the United States -
Washington.

Sir.

Refering to my letter to the Department of State under date of 16th January 1855. relative to office of United States Marshal at the Port of Canton, permit me to introduce the bearer James P. Cook, who succeeded to that office 1st Jan'y. 1853. During the period that has since elapsed Mr Cook has held the offices and discharged the duties of U.S. Commercial Agent & U.S. Marshal, for which he has received no compensation from Government.

The services he has rendered in cases of Mutiny & insubordination, on board our Merchant Vessels, in cases of desertion, in breaches of the public peace on the part of drunken Sailors, have consumed much time & involved no little care, & responsibility. He has also supplied all the prison accommodations possessed

for

for criminals, the number of which has been considerable. From his position & intimate & extensive acquaintance with the Chinese, & the confidence & influence acquired among them. Mr. Cook has been able to render important services & I commend his claim for a just remuneration to the favorable consideration of the Department.

With sentiments of distinguished consideration.

I have the honor to be,

Sir.

Very Respectfully.

Your Obedient Servant.

Peter Parker

This is to certify that the undersigned a Resident, merchant at this place for the past three Years, has purchased Bills, signed certificates, & known the best rate of Exchange for Bills on the United States to be 30 % discount. That is to say one Dollar in the UStates is worth but 70 cents in China.

T. J. Delisher

Amoy Kong Dec 13th 56

From T. J. Delisher Esq

James Keenan

Legation of the United States.

No. 32. Macao 11th Dec. 1856.

His Excellency.

William L. Marcy.

Secretary of State of the United States.

Washington.

Sir

On the 22nd ult. I had the honor of addressing you via Calcutta, informing you of an hostile attack upon the flag of the United States by Chinese forts near Canton. It affords me great pleasure to inform you that Commodore Armstrong has been successful in bringing this matter, specifically concerning his Squadron, to a favorable termination. The Imperial Commissioner in his Despatch of the 5th inst. to Commodore Armstrong, writes: 'From this I see Your 'Excellency has a clear knowledge of affairs. There 'is no matter of strife between our two nations. 'Henceforth, let the fashion of flag which 'American Ships employ be clearly defined, 'inform me what it is beforehand. This will 'be the verification of the friendly relations be-'tween our Countries.' I enclose copies of the correspondence of Commodore

Armstrong

Armstrong and the Commissioner Yei, since the date of my last (Exhibit A.) and must refer you to the report of the Commodore to the Navy Department for the particulars of the Naval operations, casualties &c. at the Barrier Forts, which have been demolished.

On receipt of Commodore Armstrong's note of the 8th inst. on the 9th I resumed my correspondence with His Excellency Yei, calling attention to several subjects that had been in abeyance pending the settlement of the Naval Question. (Exhibit B.)

My Correspondence with the U. S. Consul at Canton is contained in Exhibit B., with Fish Chow in Exhibit C. — Exhibit D embraces correspondence with His Excellency the Governor of Macao in relation to a recent case of piracy, in which an American Citizen is implicated, & Exhibit E. includes correspondence with the French Legation relative to the revision of the Treaties & other subjects, to all of which I respectfully invite your attention.

In a private note Sir John Bowring informs me that indirectly he learns there is a disposition on the part of the Cantonese, (as respects the British questions) to come around. The City of Canton is now reduced to great

extremities

extremities, in consequence of the policy of the Imperial Commissioner who seems disposed to sacrifice every interest to the maintainence of his innate stubbornness. From the Provincial City to the Ocean every Chinese fort is either demolished or lost to the Government! The distress in the City must be very great, & the revolutionary element in this Province is again manifesting itself. - A place of some importance forty miles from Canton has recently been taken by the mal-contents. That the Commissioner must sooner or later succumb to the English I regard as certain, and if a wise and judicious diplomacy now obtain, I am not without hope that the events of the past two months may operate favorably upon our negociations for the revision of treaties the coming year. I shall use every effort to effect the early resumption of our trade at this port. Various Protests, on the part of our Merchants, have been recorded at the Consulate, against both the Chinese and British Governments - and I shall be happy to receive the views of the home Government in relation to the subject of indemnification, when it shall come up for adjustment.

With

With sentiments of distinguished consideration
I have the honor to remain
Sir
Your Excellency's
Most Obed: Servant
Peter Parker

Index to Despatch No 32. - 11th December 1856.

A	1.	P. Parker to Commodore Armstrong	3	Dec.	1856
	2.	Com: Armstrong to P. Parker	8	"	"
	3.	H.E. Yeë to Com: Armstrong.	25	Nov.	"
	4.	Com: Armstrong to H.E. Yeë	25	"	"
	5	H.E. Yeë to Com: Armstrong	28	"	"
	6	Com: Armstrong to H.E. Yeë	29	"	"
	7.	H.E. Yeë to Com: Armstrong	5	Dec.	"
	8	Com: Armstrong to H.E. Yeë	6	"	"
B	1.	P. Parker to H.E. Yeë	9	"	"
	2	Do. to O.H. Perry	25	Nov.	"
	3	Do. " Do.	"	"	"
	4	Do. " Do.	26	"	"
	5	H.E. Yeë to Do.	28	"	"
	6	Do. " Do.	29	"	"
	7	Do. " Do.	29	"	"
	8	D. N. Spooner to Do. (Protest)	30	"	"
	9	P. Parker to Do.	3	Dec.	"
	10	O.H. Perry " P. Parker	6	"	"
	11	Circular - (Reward for barbarians' heads)	28	Nov.	"
	12	P. Parker to O.H. Perry.	10	Dec.	"
	13	Do. " Do.	9	"	"
C.	1	C. Jones to P. Parker	24	Sept.	"
	2	Do. " Do.	15	Nov.	"
	3	Do. " Do.	17	"	"
	4.	P. Parker " Sir John Bowring	1	Dec.	"
	5	Sir John Bowring to P. Parker	3	"	"
	6	C. Jones to P. Parker	20	Nov.	"

D	1.	H.E. Govr. Guimarens to P. Parker	6	Decr	1856.
	2	Sir John Bowring to H.E. Govr. Guimarens	3	"	"
	3	A. Grand Pre's Report "piracy case"	1	"	"
	4	Judge Pinto's — " — Do.	6	"	"
	5	P. Parker to H.E. Govr. Guimarens	6	"	"
E	1	Comte de Courcy to P. Parker.	10	Aug.	"
	2	Do. Do.	24	Octr.	"
	3	Do. Do.	27	"	"
	4	Do. Do.	12	Novr.	"
	5	Do. to Sir John Bowring	16	"	"

Despatch 32. Exhibit A. 1.
11th. Decr. 1856.

(Copy.)

Legation of the United States.
Macao. 3d Decr. 1856.

Sir.

A letter received from Dr. Williams last evening under date of the 29th ult. informs me H.E. Yeh had replied to your reminder of the 25th ult. but I have no knowledge of its tenor.-

Mr. Perry has furnished me copies of H. Es. replies to his three notes of the 1st Novr. translated sent in for the third time on the 28th ult. which are unsatisfactory. It is important I should resume correspondence with H. E. but I purpose not to do so till your correspondence relative to the firing upon the U. S. flag. upon a boat belonging to your squadron is concluded, unless that shall be inconveniently protracted.

I confidentially trust that I shall hear from you by the next arrival, but should I not, allow me to request, if agreeable to your views a copy of H. Es reply of the 29th ult. also

of

Commodore James Armstrong
Commander in Chief of the U. S. Naval Forces
in the East India & China Seas.
U. S. Flag Ship "San Jacinto"
Whampoa.

of any further communications you may have addressed the Imperial Commissioner.

I shall also be much gratified to learn from you the present state of affairs growing out of the operations connected with the Barrier forts. as I have received no authentic information since leaving Whampoa on the 27th ult.

I have the honor to remain,

Sir,

Very Respectfully.

Your obed. Servt.

Peter Parker

Despatch 32. Exhibit A. 2. A. 2
11th Decr 1856.

(Copy.)

U. S. Flag Ship "San Jacinto."
Whampoa. - 8th Decr 1856.

My dear Sir.

Your letter of the 3rd inst. I received on the night of the 6th. On the same day we completed the demolition of the "Barrier Forts" & the Ships have returned to their anchorage at Whampoa. In a few days all damages to the vessels will be repaired. -

I send you copies of the correspondence between Yeh & myself - Here I presume it will end, & so long as he does not commit any act of violence against our flag or Citizens we shall rest on our arms. - But, I think we have given him a lesson that he will not soon forget. -

Please present my respectful Compliments to Mrs Parker.

I am, very truly
Your Obed. Servt.
(Signed.) Jas. Armstrong.
Comg U. S. Naval Forces.
East India & China Seas. -

His Excellency.
Peter Parker.
U. S. Commissioner,
to China.

Despatch 32. Exhibit A. 3. 4
11th Decr 1856.

(Copy.) Translation

Yeh by Imperial Authority, Governor General of the Two Kwang, member of the Cabinet, hereditary baron of the Empire, &c &c hereby replies on business.-

On the 22nd inst. I received your letter of the 20th but when I had opened it I found that it was in your Country's language, & as I had no means of understanding it, I immediately let you know, that it might be translated into Chinese that I might know its import. After I had sent my reply, the linguist informed me that you were on board your ship at Whampoa & had not yet brought an interpreter (tolanton); but after it had been translated by the said Linguist, I received it on the 24th inst. translated into Chinese, to the following purport. "The forts at the Barrier have, without any provocation, impertinently fired upon one of the boats of my Squadron; this is an outrage on the American flag, & I have in consequence brought up the Ships before the forts & attacked & silenced them." I have made myself acquainted with the facts you state.

I had previously received your letter of the (17th) 19th inst. to which I also replied on the 20th stating the matters which had arisen with the English, & apprehensive that it might be difficult to protect American Merchants & Citizens, requested them to move elsewhere with the men of war. In the present communication, you state that you were very desirous of preserving the good understanding & amicable feelings which have so long existed between China & the United States even at the time, when these forts suddenly opened fire upon one of your boats, and that I, the Governor General, also express feelings of good will (in reply) - You greatly regret, therefore that my reply is not more satisfactory to you, & gives no assured promise that whenever American vessels shall pass in the rivers where they have a right by treaty to go, that they shall not again be fired at.

On receiving this, & reflecting that being now engaged in warlike operations, it is not at all easy to tell to what country a vessel does belong. I must repeat what I said in my former communication, that as American & English Ships & soldiers are only to be distinguished by their flags, whenever

the

the flag is far off. it is by no means easy to make it out at a glance. furthermore, the minds of the people being in a state of great excitement & confusion, it is much to be feared that it will be difficult to avoid altogether, but that some among them will mistake the flags. Let your Excellency therefore reflect that at this time when the troops & braves of this country are engaged in hostilities, it should not be deemed surprising if they found it a hard matter sometimes to discriminate between the ships of different countries. —

Moreover, the English have now commenced hostilities without any reason, & this has already caused the trade of all other Merchants at Canton to cease. Yesterday I received communications from the French official Bourcy, & the Portuguese official Guimaraez, in which they remark, that as troops are now about the City of Canton, & the commerce there has ceased, so that the Merchants have no business at all, they have ordered their Consuls to take down the flags from their houses, & that the Admiral has also issued orders

for

for the force placed for the protection of their Merchants to be withdrawn. This affords satisfactory proof that the French & Portuguese officers fully understand & are willing to comply with the position of affairs, at which, I, the Governor General am very much gratified. I also think that Your Excellency will act in the same manner. To maintain amicable relations between our two countries, in all respects there is no better way than soon to move elsewhere. Henceforth, lest American Ships, while passing here & there on the rivers during this time of hostilities, should not be distinguished, & should by mistake be fired at & injured. I request that you will order Merchants & ships for the time to cease going about. This declaration is a friendly one & very important, & in fact is also dating according to the Treaty.

For this I reply, hoping at the same time that your happiness will daily increase.

To. Commodore Armstrong.
Commander in Chief of the U.S. Naval force in East India & China Seas.
25th Nov. 1856.

True Copy.
Thos. J. Reynolds.

Despatch 32 Exhibit A.4 #
11 Decr 1856.

Copy.

United States Flag Ship "San Jacinto"
Whampoa, 25th Novr 1856.

Sir,

Your communication of this days date has just been put in my hands.

It is much to be regretted that so much delay occurs in the present mode of communicating with Your Excellency, owing to the difficulty under the present circumstances of procuring translations from our own language but as greatly to be desired that some more ready & less obscure means of negociation could be devised.—

I appreciate all Your Excellency's expressions of good will & reciprocate the feelings you avow, but, it becomes my duty to remind Your Excellency that you have given me no assurance that the attack upon the flag of the United States was unauthorized by Your excellency, nor do you give me any promise or security that such an outrage will not occur again.— You advise as the only means of preventing such hostile proceedings on the part of those under Your Excellency's control that the flag & the Citizens of the United States shall retire from Your Excellency's jurisdiction. The flag of the United States & the privileges it carries cannot be withdrawn from any territory in which it has a right by treaty to be. Whenever the rights of the United States & its Citizens are respected, it will be my earnest endeavor to return a corresponding kindness & friendship. But, on the other hand, I will maintain those rights, & punish all offences against them to the utmost of my power.— In fulfillment of this duty I have taken & am now destroying the Barrier Forts.—

I

His Excellency.
Yeh
Imperial Commissioner &c &c &c
Canton.

I trust that Your Excellency will yet see the propriety of giving such orders taking such measures as are due to the flag & Citizens of a friendly power, & I shall be happy to hear that Your Excellency has done so.—

Very Respectfully.
&c &c &c

(Signed.) Jas. Armstrong.
Commander in Chief of the U. S. Naval Forces in the East Indies & China Seas.

(L. S.)

True Copy.
Thos. Reynolds

Despatch 32. Exhibit A.5.
11 Decr 1856.

Copy. Translation.

Yeh by Imperial Commission Governor General of the Two Kwang, member of the Privy Council, Baron of the Empire &c &c hereby replies in business.

I receives your letter of the 28th inst. yesterday. In it you remark. "It is much to be regretted that there should be so much delay in the transmission of our communications, owing to the difficulty of getting them translated into Chinese, tit is very desirous at this time that no obstacles should interfere to doing so". I fully understand what you say on this point; but when I receives your letter of the 20th inst. I found that it was in English altogether unintelligible to me, & I accordingly required the Linguists to presently translate it into Chinese, tit was not till the 24th that I got it. I replied to it the next day, so that there was not much delay, as I have explained it already in my reply to you.

It is well known that all Nations which resort to China to trade are treated with propriety & justice. On this occasion the English, relying on their prowess, having neither reason nor decorum in their proceedings, attacked this City & thereby threw all its inhabitants into the utmost confusion and turbulence, & the struggle has now become one

of

the English. the people of Canton would have had no quarrel with them. & they can infer what has led to this difficulty.

Your Excellency ought to remove soon from where you are open to suspicion and imputation. & I shall be pleased if you do not continue to adhere to your own views. If Americans still are determined to come up the river to Canton, how can their conduct be said to comport with that propriety & equity due, or how will it uphold the friendly relations between us.? In one of my former replies I have already dwelt upon this point. I beg Your Excellency to carefully reconsider those remarks.

For this I reply. & avail myself of the opportunity to wish you every enjoyment.

To Commodore Armstrong
Commander in of the U.S. Naval Forces
in East Indian & China Seas.—
28th Novr 1856.

True Translation
(Signed) S. Wells Williams.

True Copy
(Signed) A Vanden Heuval
Commodores Secy.

True Copy.
Thos J Reynolds

Despatch 32. Exhibit A. 6.
11 Dec.r 1856.

(Copy.)

U. S. Flag Ship "San Jacinto."
Whampoa 29th Nov.r 1856.

Sir.

Your Excellency's communication of the 28th instant. is now, 7 o/ P.M. for the first time before me: & as I have distinctly & repeatedly informed Your Excellency that the rights & privileges of the flag & citizens of the United States would be defended by me against all aggression, it would be useless to consume the time of Your Excellency & of myself in repeating this determination. But, there are a few points in Your Excellency's letter which show so much mis-apprehension of the rights of friendly nations, & the duties of one to another that I must call Your Excellency's attention to the errors under which Your Excellency is laboring.

In the first place you demand that the Citizens & the flag of the United States shall retire from Your Excellency's juris-diction, because there are hostilities existing between the English & Your Excellency, because the French & Portuguese have done so.

The United States has, as Your Excellency must know, by treaty entered into friendly relations with the Imperial Government of China, which gives its Citizens the right to a residence, to trade & protection,

in

in certain portions of the Chinese Empire, one of which happened to be under Your Excellency's Government. The demands of Your Excellency is in violation of that treaty & will call forth the surprise & indignation of my government, & cannot be acceded to by any of its officers.

With the course of the French & Portuguese the authorities of the United States have nothing to do. These Authorities while most desirous of acting according to right & justice must form their judgment irrespective of that of other nations. Under the present circumstances they only claim that to which the faith of the Imperial Government of China is pledged, & which Your Excellency cannot refuse without taking upon yourself the responsibility of violating that faith.—

Your Excellency further says.—

"When the English opened their fire on the 29th ult. upon the City, men of other countries scrambled over the walls with them, & when they attacked the French Folly on the 6th inst. the Citizens & Villagers repeatedly saw all that was done, & reported to me that there were Americans mixed up among their forces. Moreover, I am told that the English Consul Parkes has spread abroad the report that the Americans have encouraged them

them to maintain their part bravely in these hostilities.

When these things come to my knowledge knowing the long continued good feelings that your country had shown to us for so many years. I put no credence in them notwithstanding all the declarations of the people; but in consequence repeatedly informed Consul Perry that he might enjoin it on his Countrymen & the American men of war to move elsewhere, & thereby take away all cause of fear & suspicion. This advice was certainly given with friendly feelings and he ought to have acted in accordance therewith."

For what "the men of other countries" have done Your Excellency must know the United States are not responsible.

In all the correspondence I have had the honor to hold with Your Excellency this is the first communication in which Your Excellency has complained of the interference of Americans in your difficulty with the English, & even now you make that complaint upon the vague reports of "Citizens & Villagers" whom Your Excellency informer communications stated to be in so excited a condition they could not distinguish the American flag from the English. Can Your Excellency consider such uncertain reports as these a sufficient cause to make war upon a friendly

power

powers? - to fire without warning, from your forts upon a small boat, which relying upon the faith thereof of your government, was on a friendly & peaceful errand passing under their guns? It must need very little reflection to convince Your Excellency that any reports spread by the officers of another government, not under any control, are not a sufficient cause for such hostile proceedings, even though the reports were strictly true. Americans have a right to hold & to express whatever opinions they please in relation to their own or any other government, & so long as they refrain from any improper action upon those opinions they are not responsible to any powers. It may be supposed, & probably is the case, that some Americans sympathize with the Cantonese, but this would not be claimed by the English as sufficient reason for making war upon the Country of such persons.

If any Citizens of the Ustates were so indiscreet as to engage in the hostilities between Your Excellency & the English, it would certainly be a just subject of complaint on the part of Your Excellency to the Ustates Authorities to which these Citizens are responsible & Your Excellency might have had every confidence, as you have the evidence, that such a course on the part

of

of American citizens would have been reproved & put an end to.

The following Extract from the Circular issued by the Senior Naval Commanding Officer in my absence is proof that you can have no complaint against the Government whose flag you have assaulted.—

"The U. S. Naval Forces are here for the special protection of American interests; & the display of the American Flag in any other connection is hereby forbidden.—

Signed Andrew H. Foote,
Commr. U. S. Navy.
Senior Officer present Commanding
U. S. Naval Forces. Canton.—

Canton China
29th Oct. 1856

With so clear & proper means of redress before you neither His Excellency the Commissioner of the United States to China, nor myself received any intimation from Your Excellency of any cause of complaint, until after you had fired upon the boat of my squadron, & thus made war upon a power at peace with your Government.

From the nature of Your Excellency's communication I am reluctantly led to the conclusion that the assault upon the flag of the United States was by Your Excellency's Authority. I have shown

that

that the complaints under which Your Excellency endeavors to excuse that injury, are too vague and undefined to justify any hostility. that even if true, to the fullest extent, Your Excellency's course was a Reference to the Representatives of the United States in China. It is plain that your demand to retire the United States flag from the country under your jurisdiction is a violation of the treaty obligations of the Imperial Government of China, which cannot be acceded to.-

If Your Excellency upon considering the subject shall see the impropriety of this demand & shall give orders that in future the flag of the United States shall be treated with respect and friendship, the present difficulty will be at an end. From the friendly feelings you express & which I both feel & will act upon when all provocation is removed, there ought to be no obstacle to this happy result.

Unless Your Excellency sees the justice of the views I have endeavored to set forth, and acts accordingly, with Your Excellency must rest the responsibility for all the evils attending the difficulties you are creating between the Governments of the United States & the Chinese Empire.

Returning

Returning your Excellency's expressions of good will.

I am, very respectfully
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) James Armstrong.
Commander in Chief of the
United States Naval Forces in
the East Indies & China Seas.

True Copy.
(Signed) A Vanden Heuval.
Commodores Secy.

True Copy.
Thos. J. Reynolds.

Despatch 32. Exhibit A. 7.
11 Decr 1856.

(Copy.) Translation.

Yeh, Imperial Commissioner, Governor General of the two Kwang provinces, baron of the Empire, &c &c hereby replies.

I received your communication of the 29th ult. on the 4th inst. in which your remark "There are some points on which your Excellency is in error, & greatly misunderstand the rights of friendly nations, & which I accordingly plainly request you to very seriously reflect upon."

On reading this sentence, I may say that all nations which have come to Canton to trade have been treated properly, but on this occasion, when the English have so causelessly commenced hostilities, other nations have had nothing to do with it. I have already received communications from the French & Portuguese officials, in which they say, that on account of the hostilities now existing, they have withdrawn their men of war & their Merchants have gone, lest unfortunate mishaps or casualties should occur: To retire for these reasons bespeaks truly friendly relations & feelings with China. On the 25th & 28th of Novr I wrote you, & also on the 29th to Consul Perry to this effect, & even previous

to

to those dates intimated to you that on account of the long & friendly intercourse between our Countries, you might also conclude to act likewise. In your present communication you say "that (this demand) for American Citizens & men of war to withdraw is contrary to the Treaty" but my wish to have them do so is simply on account of present hostilities; and the entire suspension of trade at Canton, makes it needless for them to remain. If they retire for the time it will prevent any casualties or mistakes, 'tis merely an expedient for the exigencies of the occasion. How could the Treaty beforehand provide for such an emergency? If Your Excellency still refuses to withdraw, it will exhibit needless persistency in a course of conduct.

Your remark in the present letter "Your Excellency must certainly know on reflection that the U States has no concern with the acts of other nations". & further say. "If you see that it is contrary to the rights of friendly nations for the Americans to withdraw, if you will issue orders to all your officers, henceforward to treat them with respect & friendliness, the present difficulties will be at an end". — From this I see fully

that

that Your Excellency has a clear knowledge of affairs. There is no matter of strife between our two nations. Henceforth, let the fashion of flag which American Ships employ be clearly defined (or made known), & inform me what it is beforehand. This will be a verification (or proof) of the friendly relations between our countries. For this I reply, availing of the opportunity to hope that peace may be yours.

To Commodore Armstrong.
Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Naval Forces
in East India & China Seas.—

5th Decr 1856.

True Copy.
Thos. J. Reynolds

Despatch 32. Exhibit A.8
11 Decr 1856.

Copy.

U. S. Flag Ship "San Jacinto"
Whampoa. 6th Decr 1856.

Sir.

I have had the honor to receive this evening Your Excellency's communication of the 5th inst. in reply to mine of the 29th ultimo.

In your present communication Your Excellency quotes the following paragraph from mine of the above date " If you see that it is contrary to the rights of friendly nations, for the Americans to withdraw; if you will issue oriders to all your officers to treat them with respect & friendship the present difficulty will be at an end " Your Excellency's interpretation is correct, & it gives me much gratification to find Your Excellency so justly disposed to meet my purpose, as in your present reply you assure me "there is no matter of strife between our two nations. Henceforth let the fashion of flag which American Ships employ be clearly defined, or made known, and inform me what it is beforehand. This will be a verification of the friendly relations between our Countries".—

The National flag of the U States is always the same. It has been so long known in friendly & prosperous Commerce with China,

that

that it is much to be regretted that a want of acquaintance with the character of that flag, should have placed it any other relation.

But, as I understand, from Your Excellency's letter, that it is your intention to command respect for it in future, to avoid any mis-apprehension, it gives me pleasure to tell Your Excellency, that it is composed of red & white horizontal stripes, with a Union of white Stars upon a blue ground.

It may be seen by Your Excellency displayed at the American Consulate in Canton, & during the existing difficulties I shall keep it flying from one of my Ships off Canton, for the protection of American Citizens against any mistakes. But, Your Excellency may always confidently regard it as the emblem of peace, so long as no wrong is done it, or the Citizens of the U States; & I hope Your Excellency will ensure the continuance of that peace by commanding that the American flag and American Citizens be treated in future with proper respect and friendship.

Wishing for Your Excellency individual prosperity & for your jurisdiction a speedy return to the advantages

of

of peace & commerce with all nations.—

I have the honor to be,

Very Respectfully

&c &c &c

(Signed) Jas. Armstrong.
Commander-in-chief of the U.S.
Naval Forces, in the East Indies &
China Seas.—

True Copy.
(Signed) A. Vanden Heuval.
Commodores Secretary.

True copy.
Thos. J. Reynolds

Despatch 32. Exhibit B.1.
11 Decr. 1856.

(Copy.)

Legation of the United States.
Macao. 9th Decr. 1856.

Sir,

I have the honor to address Your Excellency to state on my return to the South of China on the 8th of November I learned with extreme regret the existence of a most unfortunate state of affairs at Canton, the particulars of which so far as respects the Government of the United States of China were immediately laid before me by the U. S. Consul.

On the 17th Novr I proceeded from Macao to the Flag Ship. San Jacinto at Whampoa. when with utter amazement I learned that on the 15th & 16th, the Barrier forts had made hostile attacks upon the boats of the U. S. Squadron. which had been promptly & justly attacked & silenced by Commodore James Armstrong Commander in Chief of the U. S. Naval forces. This hostile & unprovoked insult to the U. S. flag, happening to the boats of his Squadron it was fit & proper that the matter should be managed & disposed of by the Commodore, as a question specifically concerning the Naval

His Excellency.
Yeh,
Imperial Commissioner &c &c &c
Canton.

2

Naval branch of the U.S. Government in China.

I learn by a despatch from the Commodore under yesterday's date that the demolition of the Barrier forts had been completed & the Ships returned to their anchorage at Whampoa. He has also furnished me copies of his correspondence with Your Excellency which I have perused & fully understand.

It now becomes my duty to address Your Excellency upon several important subjects. —

First.— On the 16th Feby. the U.S. Consul at Canton informed me that on the 31st January as the American Steamer Williamette was proceeding on her way from Hong Kong to Canton, when near the second bar inside the Boca Tigris, was fired upon by two or three official boats. I accordingly instructed the Consul to address the District Magistrate which he did on the 20th Feby. informing him of this hostile & violent act on the part of the Government boats, by which the life & property of U.S. Citizens had been imperilled, & to request the Magistrate to investigate this extraordinary conduct of said Government Officers, & at an early date to inform him of the motives for such a procedure, that impartial justice might be demanded & rendered & like offences prevented in

future &c. The Consul now informs me that to this day no reply has been deigned to his important communications. I therefore request Your Excellency will cause this matter to be investigated, & inform me <u>why said Steamer was fired upon by the Chinese Officers?</u>

<u>Second.</u>— The Consul represents to me that on the 21st Oct. the U.S. Steamer Cumfa when on a pleasure trip with some forty Ladies & Gentlemen, among whom were French, Spanish, Portuguese, & Americans, was fired upon by the fort near Heang Shan. when all on board, innocent women & children & high Officers of different nations were in imminent peril of life, & that he had addressed Your Excellency upon the subject. I have seen Your Excellency's reply to said Consul which is most unsatisfactory. From time immemorial it has been optional with foreigners to pass & repass between Macao & Canton via <u>Heang Shan</u>, which route is within twenty four hours of the Provincial City. The Steamer was where by treaty she had a right to be, a large U.S. flag was displayed at the time. As soon as the first gun was fired she stopped but whilst turning back, heavy shot were recklessly fired over & around

around her. I therefore as in duty bound look to Your Excellency as an apology for this violation of Treaty & the principles of friendship. that Your Excellency require said fort to hoist & salute the U. S. flag with a salute of 21 Guns in the presence of said Steamer with such officers as shall be deputed to see that it is properly done. The U. S. Consul at Canton will arrange with such officer as Your Excellency shall depute for the purpose, the time of attending to this matter. This demand is in accordance with the usages of great nations it is easy of performance and most reasonable. By a prompt compliance Your Excellency will evince a sense of right & justice, & due regard for the friendly relations of our respective governments. If this reasonable reparation of a great injury is not made immediately, I shall then deliver the subject over to the Com-mander in Chief of the Naval forces, to destroy the fort by which the outrage was perpetrated, or to take such measures as he may deem due to the National flag that has thus been wantonly insulted that in future it may be respected not only at Heang Shan. but wherever else in the waters of China it has a right by treaty to be dis-played.

Third -

Third. — Under date of 31st March, by special instructions from my Government, I addressed your Excellency, presenting the claims of American Citizens to the amount of $100000 & more, upon the Government of China, but to this date no notice whatever has been taken of the subject. I therefore respectfully request Your Excellency's attention & reply to the subject without delay. —

Fourth. — The U. S. Consul on the 1st Nov.r addressed Your Excellency, in relation to a proclamation offering rewards for barbarians' heads, by which term foreigners are improperly designated by your Excellency, remonstrating against the barbarous proceeding, but without obtaining satisfaction. I have before me a copy of a proclamation issued on the 25th Nov.r by the Committee of Co-operation in which they offer "a reward of one hundred taels to any one who cuts off the head of a barbarian, & delivers it to the Authorities" 又有 斬取夷首一級来南者賞銀壹百兩

Here no distinction of nations is made. I solemnly protest against this violation of our treaty of amity & this measure so repugnant to civilized nations, for Your Excellency will rest the responsibility of all consequences of such

proclamation

proclamation. —

Fifth. — Referring to the communications of the U. S. Consul to Your Excellency of the 22nd Oct. and 1st Nov. calling for that security of person & property of U. S. Citizens guaranteed by the Treaty. I hereby confirm that demand, & repeat that the Government of the United States will look to that of China for that "entire security of person & property" of their Citizens, contained in the Treaty of Wang Hia. — If whilst the two Nations are at peace with each other, intercourse between Chinese & American Merchants is interdicted & U. S. Merchants are prohibited from selling their goods, or shipping off those they have already purchased, by Your Excellency's orders, as I am informed has been the case, it is to the Government of China whose representative Your Excellency is, said Merchants must look for all losses & injuries they sustained. & I trust if such interdictions & prohibitions have been made that Your Excellency will at once rescind them, that the amount of losses be no more augmented.

Deprecating most sincerely the existing state of affairs at Canton, & devoutly desiring that it may speedily cease, that harmony & prosperity be restored, to the great benefit of all, I have the honor to remain, with sentiments

of high consideration.

Sir.

Your Excellency's.

Most Obed.t Serv.t

Peter Parker

Commissioner & Minister

Plenipotentiary of the United

States of America in China

(L. S.)

(Despatch 32. Exhibit B.2.
11 Dec.r 1856.

(Copy.)

B. 2

United States Legation.
U. S. S. Frigate "San Jacinto."
Whampoa. 25th Nov.r 1856.

Sir.

His Excellency Yeh Imperial Commissioner & Governor General, having failed to render the satisfaction due & demanded for the recent insult to the United States Flag, by the Barrier Forts, Commodore James Armstrong, Commander in Chief of the Naval Forces of the United States in China &c &c compelled by a sense of public duty will not desist from those measures which the policy of the Imperial Commissioner imposes upon him, till the apologies for the outrage to the flag, & guarantees for its proper respect in future are obtained. You will therefore notify the Citizens of the United States at Canton accordingly.—

Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Peter Parker.

O. H. Perry Esq.r
U.S. Consul
Canton.

Despatch 32. Exhibit B. 3
11 Dec. 1856.

(Copy.)

United States Legation
U. S. S. Frigate "San Jacinto"
Whampoa. 25th Nov. 1856.

C. H. Perry Esqr.
U. S. Consul.
Canton.

Sir.

I learn from Dr. Williams & from your despatch of the 10th instant, that for want of Chinese assistants in preparing Chinese translations of officials documents, there has been no alternative but to forward communications to the Imperial Commissioner in English, & that they have been repeatedly returned by His Excellency for translation. You will call His Excellency's attention to the 18th article of our Treaty, & inform him that unless he will remove the restrictions which prevent Chinese Scholars, as provided in that article, rendering their services, no alternative will remain but to send the official correspondence in English, & thus the public interests of the two governments may greatly suffer. You are therefore instructed to apply to His Excellency to remedy the evil at once by removing all hindrances in the way of obtaining the services of competent Chinese to assist in the translation of official correspondence, in other words you will request of His Excellency the fulfillment of this Article of Treaty.

Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Peter Parker

(Despatch 32. Exhibit B. 4
11 Decr 1856.

Copy. 1

United States Legation
U. S. S. Frigate "San Jacinto"
Whampoa. 26th Novr 1856.

O. H. Perry Esqr
U. S. Consul.
Canton

Sir

Referring to our interview of this evening at which you informed me of your wish to proceed to Macao on the morrow, in view of the present state of affairs at Canton, I am reluctantly compelled to state to you that I conceive you cannot leave your Consular jurisdiction at this moment without a dereliction of duty.

On receipt of H. E. Yes reply to your communication of this date I wish you to acquaint me with the same, & to keep me constantly informed of whatever of a public character, affecting the interests of the Citizens, or the Government of the United States, transpires at this port. Our Countrymen are fully informed of the circumstances under which our Naval force stationed at Canton for their protection was withdrawn, but they may rely upon Commodore Armstrong to do all that is in his power in the circumstances

in

in which he is placed to protect & advance their interests, & I am not without encouragement to hope that before many days he may be able to render one of the Sloops of war available at Canton as a place of refuge, should one be required in the progress of existing difficulties.

Respectfully
Your obed. Servt
Peter Parker

Despatch 32. Exhibit B. 73
11 Dec. 1856.

Perry

Copy. ——— Translation. ———

Yeh, Governor General of the two Kwang provinces, &c &c hereby replies.

On the 28th inst. I received your communication, in which you remark, "I have been informed that Your Excellency has issued a proclamation offering a reward of Thirty dollars for every foreigner's head." It is known that the English have at this time attacked the City of Canton without any provocation, thereby throwing the Citizens into a state of great confusion and turbulence. There was a general notice from the people about contributing towards defense to be paid into a public fund, & requesting an edict stating the scale of rewards to be paid, but on looking over the Edict, I do not find the words "every foreigner" in it. If you are afraid that your countrymen will be apprehended by mistake, they had better move away, as in fact I have already informed you several times.—

I yesterday received communications from the Portuguese & French governments, that as the trade at Canton was at a stand, both their merchants & men of war had all moved away, for why should they be involved?

1

I think you must also have known this. As to the remark in your communication "That the American Ships of war have in no manner aided or assisted the English in their attack upon the City". it is only then still more reasonable that you should act as the Portugnese & French have. With respect to your request that a proclamation be ipued. there is no need of acceding to it.

To. Perry.
Consul of. U. S. A. Canton.

28th Novr. 1856.

Despatch 32 China B.6.
11 Dec.r 1856.

Copy ——— Translation ———

Yeh, Governor General of the Two Kwang provinces, &c. &c. hereby states.

On the 20th inst. I received your communication, in which you remark: "I have received Your Excellency's communication of the 27th ult., in which you inform me that, in consequence of the probability of a general engagement taking place between the forces under your command & the English, that you will not be at leisure to protect the residences of American Citizens, & if any damage is sustained, I must hold Mr. Consul Parkes responsible, & require him to make it good." Then after quoting the 19th Article of the treaty, you add:- "In the name of the United States of America I protest against the Government of China, for all damages suffered & to be suffered by reason of the violation by Your Excellency of this part of the Treaty & refusal to protect."

On receiving this, I am quite at a loss to understand your meaning. On the 27th & 31st days of Oct.r & the 4th & 10th days of this month, the English attacked this City with their cannon, throwing its inhabitants into great disorder, and

making

making the contest with us one wherein one party must succumb. I fearful lest it might be difficult to extend protection to the Americans, I have once & again told you that it would be better for them to move elsewhere soon, & they would not become involved in trouble. If they really suffer damage through your fault, you must demand compensation from the English, for my Government has no responsibility in this case. In the present communication you ask protection of me, but I can only say for the information of Americans that they should move away soon. This is said with good intention. 'tis the manner in which I would protect your countrymen. Whether you will hearken to it or not, depends on yourself; but in doing so I clearly act according to the Treaty.

For this I reply.

To. Perry.
Consul of the U.S.A.

29th. Nov.r 1836

Despatch 32. Exhibit B. 7.
11 Dec. 1856.

Copy. — Translation. —

Yeh. Governor General of the Two Kwang provinces, &c. &c. hereby replies.

"On the 28th inst. I received your communication of the 26th in which you remark as follows.

"The American Merchants have reported to me that there are two American Ships, the Saracen & the Progressive Age, which have applied for their clearance papers, & are prepared to pay the duties due to the Chinese Customs, but as there is no Shroff, or Custom house officer, I shall be compelled to let them depart, unless a person comes from the Hoppo to receive the same immediately."

On receiving this, I have informed the collector of Customs, that he may straightway attend to it. For this I reply.

To Perry the Consul of
U.S.A. at Canton. —

29th Nov. 1856.

Despatch 32 Exhibit B. S. B
11 Decr 1856.

Sunday Noon.

Copy. 1 Canton 30th Novr 1856.

Oliver H. Perry Esqr
Consul U. S. A. Canton.

Dear Sir.

On my return from Church this day I found waiting at my house the Linguist old Atom this pursers who usually attends to the Custom house business of my firm - Russell & Co - his answer to my inquiries if we could now get delivery of goods long since contracted for ready for shipment, or if the Merchants with whom I have pending business could come to my house with reference to it, they answered that the Governor of Canton forbade any Chinese from visiting foreign houses; & forbade the shipping off of goods to Foreign Ships more than a month ago. They stated that the stoppage of certain goods for which Russell & Co applied for an Export Chop to the "Lotus" was under the direct order of the Governor General to the Hoppo to stop the whole Foreign trade, whether of Imports or Exports.

I give this information for the benefit of the U. S. Government in its dealings with the Government of China generally; & more especially with reference to claims for losses, which I presume it will become the duty of Russell & Co to present at a future day, as Agents for the Ship "Lotus" (which

had

has been compelled to leave this port with only about one third of the Cargo laden that was originally designed for her) & as Agents for other pending business which has been suddenly stopped by the hostilities between the Governments of China & the Naval forces of Great Britain originally, & since by the involvement of the Forces of the United States.

In behalf of Messrs Russell & Co in which firm I am a partner. I respectfully request that you will here record my protest against the Government of China for all losses, costs & damages, suffered or to be suffered, by themselves on their own account, or as Agents for other parties, through this wanton act of the Governor General of Canton - a most unprovoked for, unexcusable & outrageous violation of the Treaty of Wang Hia.

I am, Sir,

Respectfully

Your Obed: Serv:

(Signed) D. N. Spooner.

True Copy.

Thos. J. Reynolds.

Despatch 32. Exhibit B. 9.
11 Decr. 1856.

(Copy.) United States Legation
Macao, 3rd Decr. 1856.

O. H. Perry Esqre
U. S. Consul.
Canton.

Sir,

Having taken copies of the several documents received from you in person last evening I now return the originals (six Enclosures). As understood at our interview you can address one more note to the Imperial Commissioner calling his attention to the date when your three despatches of the 1st Novr were sent in, & that they were not accompanied with Chinese translations was no fault of yours, & that they will be regarded the same as though they had been received at the time they were first presented, & refering H. E. to your protest of the 1st Novr inform H. E. that you now confirm the same. -

As soon as I learn from Commodore Armstrong that the Naval question is disposed of I shall address the Imperial Commissioner, demanding his attention to various subjects now in abeyance. -

Desiring

Desiring you to keep me informed of whatever of a public character transpires at your port. —

I remain,

Sir,

Respectfully

Your Obed.t Serv.t

Peter Parker.

Despatch 32. Exhibit B. 10.
11 Dec.r 1856.

(Copy.)

U. S. Consulate
Canton. 6th Dec.r 1856.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 3rd inst (with six enclosures) & shall as you direct address one more communication to the Imperial Commissioner, calling his attention to the date when my three despatches of the 1st Nov.r were sent in, & stating that there not being accompanied with Chinese translations was no fault of mine, & that they will be regarded the same as though they had been received at the time they were first presented.

Since our last interview nothing of importance has taken place other than that the English have retaken the French Folly fort and completely destroyed it by blowing it up. Yesterday afternoon at about 3. p. m, an English Sailor & marine landed from the Fort in the Macao passage for the purpose of obtaining "fresh provisions", they were attacked by the braves of the neighboring village, one was captured & beheaded, the other escaped, plunged into the river but sunk before assistance reached him - As soon as the Admiral was informed

of

of the sad fate of the two men, he gave orders for the immediate destruction of the village by fire, which was accordingly done, after a careful search through the village to see that no sick or infirm were left behind. —

I have the honor, to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obed.t Serv.t

(Signed.) Oliver H. Perry.

His Excellency.

Peter Parker.

U. S. Commissioner

&c &c &c

(Copy.)

Despatch 32. Exhibit B. 11.
11 Decr. 1856.

The Committee of Co-operation proclaim the following rewards. Great is the injury which the English barbarians by their disorderly proceedings bring upon the people. A reward of one hundred Taels shall therefore be given to any one who is able to seize one of the said English barbarians whenever they set foot on shore. A reward of one hundred dollars shall be given to any one who cuts the head off the head of a barbarian & delivers the head to the authorities. And for every Chinese traitor seized & found on examination really to be one, a reward of fifty Taels shall be paid.

Wherefore we hereby proclaim the above to all classes of the people for their full information. Your sense of duty should prompt you to show the utmost alacrity in killing & seizing (those above named) & the money you shall receive for doing so is ready prepared for you in the Treasury. We wait for the occasion to give your merit its reward. On no account shall we fail in the promises we hold out to you in this special proclamation.

Keen fung 6th year. 10th month. 28th day.—
25th Novr. 1856.—

Translated by:
Harry S. Parkes.

True Copy:
Thos. Reynolds.

Despatch 32. Exhibit B. 12 B

11 Dec.r 1856.

(Copy.)

U. S. Legation.
Macao. 10 Dec.r 1856.

O. H. Perry Esq.re
U. S. Consul.
Canton.

Sir.

I am informed by S. Drinker Esq.re that his claim, against Kwig-kwa & others, as determined by arbitrators mutually agreed upon has not been satisfied. & that the last application to Kwig Kwa received no attention.

You are in possession of all the document relating to this subject - & are familiar with all the circumstances, under which at the urgent solicitations of Kwig Kwa & others the question was entertained by the U. S. Authorities. You will therefore without further delay, present the subject to the district Magistrate of Nan-hae, calling upon him to do the needful in the premises, that the balance due Mr. Drinker be paid at once

By a Despatch of this date addressed to the Imperial Commissioner & which by calling on Dr. Williams is open for your perusal, I have stated that you will arrange with His Excellency's deputy the time for the salute demanded at the Heang Shan fort - & in the event of said deputy calling upon you - you are hereby

authorized

authorized to make the necessary arrangement, which will require reference to Commodore J. Armstrong in whose service the Cum da. is at present employed.

Your favors of the 6th inst. have been duly received. The translation of the proclamation of the Committee of Co-operation is important. & the Chinese documents sent are interesting. & I shall be obliged, at any time, by your furnishing me with the like.

I remain, Sir,

Your Obed. Servt.

Peter Parker.

Despatch 32. Exhibit B. 13.

11 Decr. 1856.

Legation of the United States.
Macao. 9th Decr 1856.

O. H. Perry Esqr
U. S. Consul.
Canton

Sir.

A. Despatch from Commodore James Armstrong of yesterdays date informs me that on the 6th inst. the demolition of the 'Barrier forts' was completed, & the ships had returned to their anchorage at Whampoa, & in a few days the damages to the vessels will be repaired. Enclosing me copies of his correspondence with the Imperial Commissioner, he observes. 'Here I presume it will end so long as he the (Imperial Commissioner) does not commit any act of violence against our flag or Citizens we shall rest on our arms.' His Excellency Yeh in a despatch of the 5th inst. writes Commodore Armstrong. 'From this I see Your Excellency has a clear knowledge of affairs. There is no matter of strife between our two Nations. — Henceforth, let the fashion of flag which American ships employ be clearly defined, & inform me what it is before hand. This will be the

verification

verification of the friendly relations between our countries.

I have this day resumed correspondence with the Imperial Commissioner demanding attention to various important subjects which I have chosen to place in abeyance pending the adjustment of the Naval question. Among them, other instances in which the U. S. flag has been fired upon by the Chinese, & the rights of U. S. Citizens under Treaty, have been brought to His Excellency's notice, who has been informed that failing to render the satisfaction demanded for the violation of the Treaty by the fort of Heang Shan, that matter also will be delivered over to the Commander in Chief of the U. S. Naval Forces in China to manage. This brief exposé of the present state of our relations to the Chinese Government at this Port you are authorized to communicate for the information of United States Citizens within your Consular jurisdiction

Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Peter Parker

Despatch 32. Exhibit C. 1.
11 Decr 1856.

Copy.

U. S. Consulate
Fish Chow fu. 24th Sept. 1856.
(Recd Whampoa. 25th Novr 1856)

Sir.

I regret to say that I am without any advices from you since the receipt of your despatch of the 26th August. I was in hopes to have been able by this opportunity to have given you positive information of the arrest of the murderer of Mr Cunningham, but althô' the Prefect says the murderer has been arrested - Mr Medhurst tells me that from the best information he can obtain, he is satisfied that such is not the fact.

The prefect paid me a very long visit to day, & has this moment left. He was very anxious that I should have the duties paid up. I told him, that as soon as our difficulties were properly adjusted. I would pay every dollar due & that it was with them to say, whether it should be for a long or short period.

I cannot give you full particulars of affairs here today, as the letter bag closes in a few minutes. I will however give you

His Excellency
Peter Parker
U. S. Commissioner & Minister Plenipotentiary
to China

you full accounts by the next overland messenger,
in the mean time hope to hear from you.

I have the honor to be

With great respect.

Your Obed.t Serv.t

(Signed.) Caleb Jones.

U. S. Consul.

Despatch 32. Exhibit C. 2.
11 Decr 1856.

No 28.
(Copy)

U. S. Consulate.
Fuh Chow 15th Novr 1856.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 1st Novr together with a communication to the Vice Roy of this Province, (which I forwarded to him this morning) & a copy of the same in English for my perusal. for which please accept my thanks.

I wrote you per "Taffarette" on the 11th inst. my reason in full for taking bonds for the payment of duties from British subjects shipping in American Ships. The fact that H. Bs Consul had relieved Her Majesty's subjects from paying duties to the Chinese officials previous to my taking the bonds in question, left me no other alternative than to do as I did: or seem to throw obstacles in the way of H. Bs Consul, by placing one portion of H. Bs subjects upon a different, if not a more unfavorable footing, than the rest of them. Under these circumstances the

His Excellency Peter Parker
U. S. Commissioner & Minister Plenipotentiary to China
now in Hong Kong.

censure

censure of Sir John Bowring is in my judgment entirely unmerited, not to say ungrateful. I wish you to ask Sir John Bowring to direct the British subjects at once to pay the duties due on the American Ship "Kingfisher" to the Chinese Superintendent of Customs & obtain the grand chop. Upon the production of the same at this office, you direct me, to deliver the bonds to the parties who gave them, for I am afraid, if the parties here are ordered by me to pay the duties they would refuse to do so. I have come to this conclusion within a short time. I may as well state here, that all of the American Houses at this place, gave bonds to Mr. Medhurst for duties due on British Ships, & I am happy to say they promptly paid them upon call. yet Mr. Consul Medhurst not only says if he were one of the parties who gave me the bonds, he would not pay them upon my order, & at the same time said that if I was obliged to sue on them in his Court, he would not decide the case, but refer it, which convinces me he is already informed of Sir John Bowring's view of the matter. Therefore I suggest the above named course, for the purpose of securing to the Chinese Custom House the payment of about twenty five

thousand dollars due on the "Kingfisher". - I shall then have only the bonds of our own Countrymen, to the amount of about fifty thousand dollars. I deeply regret that I was induced to depart from my Circular of the 24th of Sept. It has been a lesson to me. Hereafter my first object will be to perform my duties in accordance with the views of my own Government in all cases; & secondly to aid my own Countrymen in all lawful undertakings. In attempting to do this I shall never consider the wishes of any other Government, or the interests (when they conflict with our Merchants) of any foreign subject. Bad faith once exhibited to me, & the denial of plain facts susceptible of the clearest proof in any Court of justice, with a chain of circumstances which would of itself carry conviction to any impartial mind, if sufficient to warrant me henceforward to rely upon my own judgment aided by that of my own Countrymen, in all matters of public interest at this port. And with great deference to the judgment of others, I cannot help thinking American interest in China, as every where else, will have a much better chance of success by relying solely upon the efforts of our own Representatives & the energy of our own Citizens. "Peace with all, entangling alliances with none, is a good maxim. -

I am gratified to learn that you are now at the South. Your presence during the important events now transpiring at Canton, is most fortunate. I am glad that the English Admiral has taken the course which he has, but I do not think the cause is one iota more justifiable than we have had to do the same thing here.

I herewith forward you a copy of the Bond which I have taken for duties due on the "Kingfisher" in addition to which I have a similar bond from J. C. Smith Esqr. Agent for Dent & Comp'y for about one thousand dollars, for duties due on the American Ship "Wild Duck" I have no apprehensions about collecting this latter amount.

This morning I addressed a letter to our merchants here, asking them if in their judgment a man of war was necessary at this Port, to remain during the troubles at Canton. I forward you a copy of their reply. It is signed by only one, but I have it verbally from the rest that they concur in the sentiments. As I told them I differ with them in the idea, that a similar request made under other circumstances not having been complied with is any evidence

that

that such will be the case in this instance. You will however act as seems best. I am impressed that some force is absolutely necessary, but can do without it, if our merchants can.

I have the honor to remain.
With great respect
Your Obed.t Serv.t
Caleb Jones.
U. S. Consul

GH

Copy

(Copy of Bond.)

Fish Chow 30th Sept: 1856

We the undersigned, on behalf of Jardine Matheson & Co or whomsoever it may concern, promise to pay to the Chinese Superintendent of Customs upon the order of the American Consul, subject however, as these Duties are liable & due under the American Flag, to any claims of the American Government made through the American Commissioner on the same. the sum of Taels sixteen thousand & thirty & five mace (Taels 16.030.. 5.. 0) duties upon 12713 packages of Tea, shipped per "Kingfisher" Crosby, Master; to London, as per Custom house memorandum herewith.

We also further promise, on behalf of whomsoever it may concern, to hold. to the order & risk of the American Consul the sum of Taels Six hundred and ninety three, seven mace, eight candareens. (Taels 693. 7. 8.) being the sum due to the Chinese Superintendent of Customs for Port Charges on the above named vessel.

(Signed.) R. C. Crawford.
Thos. L. Larken.

(Copy of letter from W. S. Sloan Esqre)

Fuh Chow 15th Nov.r 1856.

Sir.

I have yours of this morning, & agreeable to your request have consulted with Mr Comstock, on the subject of the insecurity of our lives & property at this port. He fully agrees with me, that having repeatedly called for the presence of a Man of War at this place, & more recently when one of our Countrymen was brutally murdered in a public Street, this request having been made personally to His Excellency Dr. Parker, & which has never been granted, altho' there are three vessels on the station, we cannot see that another request would meet with any other reception. We have therefore only to rely upon ourselves, looking to the Government to make good any losses our Constituents at home or ourselves here may sustain, from their neglect to provide the necessary means of protection.

I am,

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) (W. S. Sloan —

To.

Caleb Jones Esqre

U. S. Consul.

True Copy.

Thos. J. Reynolds.

Despatch 32. Exhibit C 3.
11 Decr 1856.

(Copy.) U. S. Consulate.
Fuh Chow 17th Novr 1856.

My dear Dr Parker.

I have been so completely astonished at the reports respecting my acts connected with taking Bonds from British subjects shipping in American Ships, that I have determined to give you a full history of the same. On the 22nd of September I addressed the following note to the Consignees of the "Kingfisher". You will observe that Mr Medhurst alludes to this subject at the meeting held at the British Consulate on the same evening. Please read his remarks as published in the minutes of the meeting in this connection.

(Copy of Letter No 1.)
U. S. Consulate
Fuh Chow 22nd Sept 1856.

Gentlemen,

As Consignees of the American Ship "Kingfisher" I have to request you to procure from the Custom House, a "compare chop" or some other document from the Authorities showing the amount due on the Cargo, together with the tonnage dues on the Ship & hold the

same

same subject to my order & risk. By so doing you will I think aid the cause of justice & confer a favor on

Your Obedient Servant.
(Signed) Caleb Jones.
U. S. Consul.

J. L. Larken Esqre
Messrs Jardine Matheson & Co.
Fuh Chow

Had they at once have refused this request I should have cleared the "Kingfisher" in the usual form, & now only regret their not having done so, as very little reflection satisfied me of the propriety of my circular of the 24th Sept. Shortly after sending the above letter. Mr. Medhurst, Captain Crawford, & Mr. Larken called at my office, & as Mr. Medhurst says "the "U. S. Consul after some negociation, signified "his consent to their placing a guarantee for "their amount of duties in my hands as British "Consul" &c. This is strictly true, & I received from Mr. Medhurst his repeated thanks for my consenting to this arrangement. Judge then if you can my astonishment at receiving the next morning the following letter.—

Fuh

Fuh Chow 23rd Sept. 1856

Sir.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of yesterday's date, but before we can give you an answer to your request therein contained, we must beg to be informed of your reasons for wishing us to adopt this most unusual course in the payment of the duties, & the port charges of the American Ship "Kingfisher", & at the same time would wish to know what steps you intend to take, should we be unable to comply with your request

We are Sir.

Your obed. Servts

(signed) Jardine Matheson & Co.

p. T. L. Larken.

C. Jones Esqre
U. S. Consul. &.

To the foregoing letter I replied as follows.—

U. S. Consulate.

Fuh Chow. 23rd Sept. 1856

Gentlemen.

In reply to your communication of this date, I beg leave most respectfully to

decline

decline giving my reasons for any official act. to any party other than the government of the United States. There was a distinct & positive agreement made yesterday, & altho' in adopting it I yielded to the suggestions of H. Ms. Consul & your expressed wishes, I am still willing to be governed as I hope you are by that agreement. In answer to your question as to what steps I intend to take, should you be unable to comply with my request I can only say that it will depend upon circumstances which may hereafter arise.

I have the honor to be,
Your obed.t Servant.
(Signed,) Caleb Jones. —
U. S. Consul.

Messrs Jardine Matheson & Co.
T. L. Larken Esq.re

To the above letter I received the following reply. — —

Fish Chow 23rd Sept.r 1836

Sir.

We are sorry to observe by your favor of this morning that you are under the misapprehension, that an agreement was entered

into

into with you, by ourselves yesterday. A certain proposition was, as you will remember, put forward by us, which you refused to entertain. The question was then raised by H. B.M. Consul whether if an amended proposition were put forward, you would still object to it. Your answer was certainly in the affirmative (I presume the writer meant negative certainly) but at the same time the amended proposition was not definitely put forward, the agreement was consequently entered into.

We remain, Sir,
Your obed.t Serv.ts
(Signed) Jardine Matheson & Co.
Pr. T. L. Larken.

Caleb Jones Esq.r
U. S. Consul.

Please note particularly in this connection Mr. Medhurst's remarks, respecting my consenting to take a guarantee &c made at the public meeting on the evening previous to the writing of these letters, & tell me if it does not look like an agreement entered into. The correspondence with this Firm was closed by the following letter.

United

U. S. Consulate.

Fuh Chow 24th/h Sept: 1856.

Gentlemen,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of yesterday's date in which you deny that there was any agreement entered into on the day previous relative to the duties on the "Kingfisher".— Under such circumstances I deem any farther correspondence or discussion upon the subject unnecessary.—

Respectfully &c.

Signed Caleb Jones.

U. S. Consul.

Messrs. Jardine Matheson & Co.

T. L. Larken Esqre

Immediately after writing this letter I issued my Circular of the 24th/h of Sept. (Mr. Medhurst having issued his after dark the previous day, & of course subsequent to the letters dated 23rd/d of Sept.) It was regarded by all of my Countrymen, as well as by British subjects as far as I could ascertain, as calculated to operate injuriously upon Americans Shipping in British Ships, & also upon British subjects shipping

in

American Ships. I was applied to by our merchants to rescind the same. & Mr. Sloan of Rufell & Co with Messrs Medhurst & Hale H. M's Consul & Vice Consul, came to my office to see if some other arrangement could not be made, more satisfactory to all parties. Soon after we met, Mr. Hale remarked. "We have thought this matter all over & have no propositions to make." I promptly replied. - I have none to make, so we will adjourn this meeting gentlemen & take a glass of wine. Mr. Medhurst then said Mr. Hale we are not infallible let us see if something cannot be done." - Some considerable conversation ensued. I stated to them that I did not wish a victory, but I would not be defeated. I would consent to anything reasonable to promote union & harmony Mr. Sloan then went to my desk & wrote out the form of a Bond. Mr. Medhurst remarked he did not like the form. (I understood him to prefer the form which had been previously agreed upon, at the same time he was at my office with Messrs Crawford & Larken) He remarked he was afraid his Countrymen would not agree

to

to it. Mr. Hale replied that he could not see what more they could ask. I consented to take such a bond. Mr. Medhurst then took the form away with him, & said he would see his Countrymen, & that if they would agree to it, he had no objection. On the same evening he informed Mr. Sloan & myself, that he had seen some of his countrymen, naming to me Mr. Green, Mr. Smith, & Mr. Larken & that with the exception of Mr. Smith (who spoke of some little change in the form, but did not make it conditional) they refused to give the bond. I said very well, now let them pay the duties into the Customshouse. - A few days afterwards Mr. Smith (of Dent & Co.) came with a copy of the bond which Mr. Medhurst had taken away, & asked me if I could not make some little change in it. I told him I did not like to do it, as it had been agreed upon in its present form. He made no other objection, & I took his bond accordingly. On the 30th. of Sept.r Mr. Larken came with an exact copy of the bond, which Mr. Medhurst informed me he would not agree to, & offered it to me, in payment of the duties due on the "Kingfisher" which I declined taking, only

1.

& because

because however the correspondence had been commenced as Jardine Matheson & Co. & the bond was signed only T. L. Larken. - I finally consented to take it, with Captain Crawford's name added. A few days after this Mr. Green (Gilman & Co.) came to me with a copy of the bond, (which Mr. Medhurst said he refused to give) & was not only willing but anxious to give me a bond in the same form, for the duties due on the American Ship "Eliz. F. Willetts." — I declined to take it as I had determined to have the duties paid in future.

I deem it totally unnecessary to say more upon this subject, except that in consequence of information I have received - I should like Sir John Bowring to see this letter, & so far as I am concerned I should like him to have a copy of it. & with it full liberty to use it in any manner he pleases. I have upon my honor given the truth upon this subject & any material change, affecting a single statement, no matter from whom it may come, is false, & unworthy of belief. I think it due to me that Sir John Bowring should know all of the circumstances of this case.

—

He

He will then judge if I am not anxious to meet the views of his own countrymen, but leave it of course entirely with you, with a single remark, that I consider this communication neither official or private, but to be used as you judge best.

I remain dear Sir,
Very truly & sincerely Yours,
Caleb Jones.

His Excellency.
Peter Parker.
U.S. Commissioner &
Minister Plenipotentiary to China.
Now in Hong Kong

(Despatch 32. Exhibit C. 4.

11 Decr 1856.

Copy.

Legation of the United States

Macao. 1st Decr 1856.

Sir,

Permit me herewith to transmit for Your Excellency's perusal & return Despatch No 28. from J. Jones Esqre U. S. Consul at Tientsin dated 15th ult. also his resumé of the subject of duties due by British subjects shipping on U.S. Vessels at that Port. dated 17th Novr

Referring to the same I have to request Your Excellency's interposition taking such action in the premises as in a change of circumstances I should most cheerfully and promptly adopt.

I will only remark that to avoid this complication, this implication of other than the U.S. Flag; the circular of the 24th Sept was issued by Mr Jones. & that it was only in the spirit of accommodation, & at the instance of H. B. Mis Consul, as well as that of British Merchants, that the U. S. Consul "consented"

to

His Excellency

Sir John Bowring. L. L. D.

H. B. Mis Plenipotentiary in China.

&c &c &c

Hong Kong.

to depart from the course contemplated by that Circular. Bonds given under the peculiar circumstances by U. S. Citizens for duties due on British Ships have been promptly paid at the call of H. M's Consul, & I have every confidence, Your Excellency's influence will not be withheld to secure the same good faith on the part of British subjects who have given their bonds for duties due on American Ships.

With sentiments of esteem & high consideration,

I have the honor to remain

Sir.

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient

Humble Servant.

(Peter Parker.)

Despatch 32. Exhibit C. 5.-
11 Decr 1856.

(Copy.) Superintendency of Trade.
No. 283. Hong Kong 3rd Decr 1856.

Sir.

I have to acknowledge Your Excellency's Despatch, dated 1st December, on the subject of Duties due by British subjects for goods shipped on United States vessels at Foo Chow.

I have regretted the complication & annoyances to which the irregular proceedings of the Consular Authorities have given rise, - but I cordially concur with you in opinion that the duties should be paid to the Chinese Authorities.

I wrote to Mr. Consul Medhurst on the 29th ult., directing him by every way in his power to assist in the recovery and payment of all duties due by the subjects of Her Majesty.

I thank you for sending to me the letters of the United States Consul & hope matters will be amicably & satisfactorily settled

His Excellency
Dr. Parker,
United States Commissioner to China.-
&c &c &c

settled and that we shall be spared farther enquiry into misunderstandings of which these letters afford but too much evidence. I return them having with Your Excellency's concurrence kept copies, should future reference to them be needful.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Excellency's
Most Obedient
Humble Servant.
Signed, John Bowring.

Despatch 32. Exhibit C. 6
11 Decr 1856.

Copy.
No 29.

U. S. Consulate.
Fuh Chow 20th Novr 1856.

Sir,

I have only time to say. I have just received the accompanying despatch from the Vice Roy for you

All matters are perfectly quiet at this port. No change whatever since my last.

I have the honor to remain
With great respect
Your Obed. Servt
(Signed) Caleb Jones.
U. S. Consul.

His Excellency.
Peter Parker
U. S. Commissioner &
Minister Plenipotentiary to China.—
Now in Hong Kong.

Despatch 32. Exhibit D.1.
11 Dec. 1856.

Macao. 6th Dec. 1856.

Copy. 1

No. 56.

Sir

I have the honor to hand to your Excellency copies of a despatch received from H. E. the Gov. of Hong Kong & document accompanying the same relating to an act of piracy committed on board of a craft of that colony in Cap-sing-moon. In consequence of said despatch a man by the name of Henry Newell calling himself American subject was apprehended & recognised as one of the party that committed said crime as Your Excellency will perceive by the evidence taken before the Chief Justice of this place of which I also transmit a copy.

Had the crime been committed in Portuguese territory I should have already handed the prisoner to the Authorities of the Portuguese Courts to be tried, but as the deed was done within the limits of the jurisdiction of Hong Kong, & aboard of a craft of that Colony, where the remainder of his associates in the crime has been arrested will be tried, it seems to be more consistent with the law in regard to such crimes that the prisoner should be sent thither.

His Excellency However

Mr. J. Parker

Minister Plenipotentiary of the Ustates. in China

However, as he calls himself a subject of the U. States I submit this affair to the decision of Your Excellency being willing to surrender him to the American Authorities to dispose of him as they may deem right or to have him tried by the Courts of Justice here, on the general principle that Pirates being the enemies of all Nations may be tried by the Courts of that Nation on whose limits they have been apprehended.

May God preserve Your Excellency.

(Signed) Isidoro F. Guimaraens

True Copy of translation

Thos. J. Reynolds.

Despatch 32. Exhibit D 2.
11 Dec: 1856.

(Copy.
No. 887.

Government Offices.
Victoria. Hong Kong 3rd Dec: 1856.

Sir,

It has been mentioned to me that a European has been offering for sale in Macao a quantity of Gold Dust, supposed to be a portion of that referred to in the enclosed Report.

I shall be greatly obliged to Your Excellency if you will cause enquiry to be made, & steps taken, to secure the guilty parties, if within your jurisdiction.

The bearer of this Sargeant de Silva will render all assistance, & if possible will take the necessary witnesses with him.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obed. Servt.

(Signed.) John Bowring.

Governor &c.

His Excellency.

Governor Guimaraes.

Macao.





(Copy.)

Despatch 32. Exhibit D.3.
11 Decr. 1856.

Piracy. — Special Report — 1st Decr 1856.

Las. Say states that he is master of a passage Boat between Hong Kong and Macao, & that on the 29th ult he left Hong Kong with about sixty Chinese passengers and at about 7. p.m. of that day, whilst sailing on her way, off Capeny moon he was boarded by a Lorcha that had four guns, & four Europeans & about 60 Chinese on board, they got into Informants' boat, & sacked all the passengers' baggage, (valued at $20.000.) containing Gold dust &c (from California) & left the Informants' Boat after they had taken all they could get, the passage Boat came into Hong Kong at 8. a.m. Information was given to the police. two Boats were sent but the piratе party consisting of about 20 men had escaped, in small Sampans, shortly afterwards, two of the Pirates crew were apprehended & recognised by several of the passengers, the two pirates state that the lorcha must now be lying off Lintin. her usual place of anchorage.—

(Signed) A. Grand Pré
Acting Superintendent of Police.—

(True Copy.)
(Signed) W. T. Mercer
Colonial Secretary.—

Despatch 32. Exhibit D. 4.
11 Dec.r 1856.

Interrogatory.

On this 6th day of Dec.r in the Year of our Lord 1856. the Chief Justice Counsellor Jose Maria de Siqueira Pinto proceeded to the interrogatory of the American named Newell assisted by the Clerk of the Court Thomaz D'Aquino Migueis & Jose' de Lemos acting as Sworn Interpreter in the following manner.—

Upon being questioned as to his name, birth place, Age, Parentage, condition & employment, he answered that he called himself Henry Newell an American by birth, aged thirty three years, bachelor, son of John Newell, formerly mate of the British Ship Water Witch.

Upon being asked whether he knew for what reason he was imprisoned answered that he had been arrested yesterday near the Guard House.

The Chinese Choe Ah Kao native of Ache having been made to appear there & there being questioned whether he knew the said Henry Newell answered, through the interpreter Manoel Barradas, sworn to said office, that he knew the said Henry to be one of a party of five who robbed the Cargo of his Lorcha (Lai ta) in Capsuy moon, near Motow, which cargo consisted of Jaigne (brown Sugar made into small cakes) oil & gold dust

and

and coins - weighing 1700 taels the property of some twenty Chinese passengers returning from California, that after the robbery had been committed by the said Henry, he (the China man) was put on board of Henry's Lorcha & when the said lorcha arrived here he recognized said Henry & the other four who landed at the Ponta da Rede (Inner Harbour) the robbery took place on the 2nd day of the present moon - say on the 29th Nov. & Henry having been made acquainted with the above said facts denied the whole of them having been put face to face with the China men - they maintained each other their saying - & so ended the proceedings.

In witness whereof this document was drawn up which being read to the parties & found conform. was signed by the said Chief Justice - assistant Clerk, - Interpreters together with me

(signed) Sejr. Pinto.
" Francisco Ant.o R. Silveira
" Henry Newell
" Tomaz d'Aquinas Mignes
" Edo. de Lemos
" Manoel Barradas
" (In Chinese Characters.)

True Copy of translation
Thos. J. Reynolds.

Despatch 32. Exhibit D 5.
11 Decr 1856.

Copy. No. 1.

Legation of the United States.
Macao. 6th Decr 1856.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's Despatch of this date, with its Enclosures, relative to a case of piracy recently committed within the jurisdiction of the British Colony, Hong Kong, on board a British vessel, informing me of the arrest of one Henry Newell, who claims to be a Citizen of the U. S. on the grounds of his being one of the accomplices or principals of said piracy.—

I concur with Your Excellency in the propriety of referring said Henry Newell for trial to the judicature of H. B. M^s. Government, under whose jurisdiction the act was committed, & which Government has already taken the initiative in bringing said Pirates, among whom some are said to be British subjects, to trial and punishment, confident the ends of justice will

His Excellency
Isidore F. Guimarens.
Govr of Macao.—

&c &c &c

Macao.

will thereby be speedily & impartially attained.

Fully appreciating Your Excellency's courteous disposition in expressing your readiness to deliver the said Henry Newell to the Authorities of the United States, or to try him before the tribunal of Macao.

I have the honor to remain

With great respect.

Sir.

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient

Humble Servt

Peter Parker.

Despatch 32. Exhibit C. 2d.
11 Dec. 1856.

Original.

Légation de France
en Chine.

Macao, le 24 Octobre 1856

N.° 13.
Duplicata

Monsieur le Plénipotentiaire,

J'ai reçu la dépêche que Vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser à la date du 14 courant et par laquelle Vous voulez bien me rendre compte des démarches que Vous avez été à même d'entreprendre à Shang Hai auprès des Autorités du Kiang nan en vue de la prompte révision du traité de Whang hia. J'ai appris avec beaucoup de satisfaction qu'elles avaient eu, en quelque sorte,

Excellence Monsieur le Docteur P. Parker Plénipotentiaire
Commissaire des Etats Unis en Chine.

l'initiative de ces démarches et qu'
ont paru accueillir favorablement
l'exposé que leur a fait Votre E
-lence des vues libérales et désinter
qui animent les Cabinets de Was
-ton, de Londres et de Paris à l'ég
du Gouvernement Chinois.

Je m'empresse de Vous rem
-cier de cette intéressante commun
-tion et de la peine que Vous avez
voulu prendre en faisant Suggé
indirectement, au Cabinet de Pé
la pensée de munir le Commissaire
Impérial qu'il enverrait à Shan
sur Votre demande, de pleins pou
qui l'autorisassent à négocier a
le Représentant de la France la r
du traité de Whampoa Si le Gou
-nement Chinois écoutait favorablem
les avis que lui auraient fait entr

le Vice Roi du Kiang nan et le Gouverneur du Kiang-Sou à l'instigation du Taotai et d'après Vos conseils, et si Votre Excellence apprenait officiellement que le Plénipotentiaire, chargé de s'entendre avec elle, a reçu l'ordre de lui concéder préalablement le droit de résidence à Pékin, je n'aurais aucune objection, pour ma part, à commencer, de concert, les négociations à Shang-Hai sur des bases aussi avantageuses, et ne manquerais pas de m'y rendre, dans cette intention, à moins que les circonstances ne me permissent pas à cette époque, de quitter ma résidence.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Plénipotentiaire, l'assurance de la haute considération avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être

de Votre Excellence

le très humble
et très obéissant serviteur,

Cte de Courcy

Légation de France
en Chine.

N.° 116

Duplicata

Macao, le 27 Octobre 1856.

Monsieur le Plénipotentiaire,

M.r A. H. Foote, Commandant la Corvette des Etats-Unis le Portsmouth a bien voulu offrir au Vice-Consulat de S. M. Impériale la protection d'une garde Américaine pendant les hostilités qui ont éclaté dernièrement à Canton.

J'ai l'honneur de transmettre ci-joint à Votre Excellence la copie de la dépêche que j'ai adressée à M.r le Commandant du "Portsmouth" pour

Son Excellence Monsieur le Docteur P. Parker Plénipotentiaire et Commissaire des Etats-Unis en Chine.

le remercier au nom du Gouvernement
de S. M. Impériale de la noble initia
qu'il a prise dans ces circonstances
critiques. J'ose espérer que Vous
-dez bien en donner communication
M.r le Commodore Armstrong.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le
Plénipotentiaire, l'assurance de la ha
considération avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur

De Votre Excellen

le très humb

et très dévoué Servite

C.te P. de Lourey

Annexe à la dépêche N° 14 du 27 octobre 1856

Copie

Le chargé d'affaires
de France en Chine

Mr A. H. Foote, Com-
dant des forces navales
américaines à Canton.

N° 12.

Macao le 29 8bre 1856

Mr le Ct. Je viens d'apprendre,
par une lettre de Mr F. Osvet,
que Vous aviez bien voulu offrir
la protection d'une garde amé-
ricaine pour le Vice-Consulat
de S. M. T. au début des hos-
tilités qui ont éclaté dernière-
ment à Canton.

Permettez-moi de Vous ex-
primer ma vive gratitude
pour le noble empressement
que Vous avez témoigné à
Mr le Vice-Consul de France
Dans ces circonstances critiques

Le Gt de C. M. T. à qui je ne manquerai pas d'en rendre compte verra avec beaucoup de satisfaction, dans cette généreuse initiative, un nouveau témoignage de la cordialité des relations qui unissent nos deux pays.

Agréez &a &a &a

(Signé) Cte H de Courcy.

Despatch 32 Exhibit B. 1-
11 Dec.r 1856

Translation

Legation of France
in China

Macao. 10.th August 1856.

No 7.-

Mr Minister,

I have the honor to inform you that I have received by the last Mail from H. I. M.s Minister for Foreign Affairs instructions prescribing to me to concert, preparatively, with Your Excellency the Britannic Plenipotentiary, the precise from limits (etendue) of the demands to be presented by our three governments to that of China & to obtain afterwards, through our common endeavors, when time will come, a satisfactory revision of the treaties.-

I purpose, if you think it convenient, entering into conference on the subject with Your Excellency and Sir John Bowring, as soon as Your Excellency will have returned from your journey to the North.

Accept please &c &c &c

Signed Ch. R. de Lourey.-

P. S.- 12.th August.

I received just now from the Commodore Armstrong a letter in which He is Excellency does me the honor to let me know his intention to proceed

to

to Shang Hae on about the 10th of the next month
I hasten to thank you for this information given
to me by the Commodore conformably to Your
Excellency's desire. —

(Signed.) Ct. R. de Courcy. —

His Excellency.
Dr. Peter Parker.
Commissioner & Minister Plenipotentiary
of the United States in China. —
&c &c &c

(Copy.)

Despatch 32 - Exhibit E2
11th Dec. 1856.

French Legation
in China

Macao. 24 October 1856.

No. 13.

Sir,

I have received the Despatch you did me the honor to address to me on the 14th inst. by which your Excellency was pleased to give me a report of the steps you had been enabled to take at Shanghae towards the Authorities of Kiang-nan, in relation to the prompt revision of the treaty of Whang hia. I observed with much satisfaction, that, to a degree, they had taken the initiative in those measures, & that they appeared to receive favorably the exposition your Excellency made of the liberal & disinterested views which animate the Cabinets of Washington, London & Paris in regard to the Chinese Government.

I hasten to thank you for this interesting communication & for the trouble you have been so good as to take in suggesting indirectly, to the Cabinet at Peking, the idea of furnishing the Imperial Commissioner sent on your demand to Shanghae with full powers to negociate with the Representative of the French the revision of the treaty of Whampoa.

If the Chinese Government were to

inclina

(Copy.)

Copy annexed to Despatch No. 14. of 27th October 185

The French Chargé d'Affaires to Lt. A. H. Foote
Commanding the American Naval Forces at Canton.

No. 12. Macao. 25 Oct. 1856.

Sir,

I have just learnt by a letter from Mr. T. Bovet that you were so good as to offer the protection of an American guard to the Vice Consulate of His Imperial Majesty at the commencement of the hotilities which have lately broken out at Canton.

Permit me to express to you my lively gratitude for the aid you so nobly tendered to the Vice Consul of France in these critical circumstances.

The Government of H. I. M. upon the communication I shall not fail to make will see with much satisfaction in this generous proceeding a new proof of the cordiality of the relations which unite our two Countries

I have the honor &c.

Signed Count R de Lourcy.

Copy. 1

Despatch 32. Exhibit E. 4.
11 Decr 1856.

E-4

French Legation in China.

No. 17.

Macao 12th November 1856.

Sir,

I have received the Despatch by which your Excellency does me the honor to acquaint me, that having seen fit to suspend your negociations with the High Authorities of Kiangnan you had determined on the 3rd inst. to quit Shang Hae on board of the San Jacinto, & in effect, I had learnt your arrival yesterday at Macao. Permit me to congratulate your Excellency on your safe return.

By the last Mail Sir John Bowring & myself received similar instructions in respect to the measures we were to adopt in concert to protect at Shang Hae our common interests against every attempt at a Chinese insurrection, & our two Governments have given orders to the Commanders of their Naval Stations to repulse by force any fresh attack the Rebels should direct against that Town.

While informing me of this mutual resolution, Count Walewski instructs me to understand with Sir John Bowring & your Excellency, as to the measures it may

be

be convenient to take for its execution; & I take the liberty in consequence, to inquire, whether you are disposed to confer with me immediately on the subject

From the last advices I have received from Shang Hai circumstances there do not appear to me to necessitate the active presence of our vessels of War for the moment, & I know H. B. M's Plenipotentiary participates in my opinion in that respect.—

Nevertheless, for my part, I should be glad if, by measures adopted in concert we at once were in a position to prevent the complications which at that port for the last two years have placed our national interests in peril. Accept the assurance of the high consideration with which, I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most humble &

Obedient Servant

(Signed) Count R. de Lourcy.

His Excellency

Dr. Peter Parker.

Commissioner & Plenipotentiary of the

U. S. A. in China.

(Copy.) Despatch No 32 Exhibit C
11th Dec. 1856.

Legation of France
in China.— Macao. 16. Nov.r 1856.

No 19.—

Sir.

I received the despatch you did me the honor to address me on the 15th inst.—

Allow me to thank Your Excellency for the friendly & courteous readiness which you have been good enough to show to me by consulting me, in the actual circumstance, upon the propriety & the opportunity of sending up to the mouth of the Pei ho of a British Steamer of war offering me to join official communications which I might have to address to the Court of Peking to those which Your Excellency would send up thereto himself relatively to the recent events in Canton.—

On the opening of the hostilities which Mr. the Admiral Seymour has thought it to be his duty to direct against the City of Canton in order to obtain by force of arms from the Imperial Commissioner the redress due to the British flag I have had the honor to express to Your Excellency my wishes for the success of such a legitimate undertaking.—

Afterwards, & anytime I have found the opportunity of doing so. I did not hesitate to make known to the Imperial Commissioner by my official communication addressed to him that my sympathies belonged to his fair & victorious opponent, & that, in my opinion the responsibility which he tried to cast upon Britannic Authorities lay really & wholly on him. On such an occasion, indifference was assuredly not allowed to His Imperial Majesty's Representative & the Chinese Government had to know that while observing neutrality in a conflict the origin of which did not concern us in a direct way, we disapproved formally his way of proceeding & did not

mean

means to divert, to his advantage, the cause which we are united to by such legitimate & intimate ties.

I should feel highly satisfied to see success crowning the mission Your Excellency did me the honor to acquaint me with & I could have wished it should proceed up to the Peiho in a more suitable season.

I will say further, Mr. the Plenipotentiary that I would have availed myself with eagerness of Your Excellency's proposition, had I had to address in the present moment to the Court of Pekin, any communication connected with our common interests. It could not have been forwarded to it under better auspices.—

(Signed.) Cte de Courcy.

To. His Excellency.
Sir John Bowring.—
Her Britannic Majesty's Plenipotentiary in China
&c &c &c

True Copy of translation
Thos. Reynolds.

Rec'd 26. Feb.

No 34. Legation of the United States.
Macao. 12th Dec.r 1856.

His Excellency.
William L. Marcy.
Secretary of State of the United States.
Washington.—

Sir.

As intimated in Despatch No 28 which I had the honor to address you on the 1st Nov.r I now beg to resume the subject of the Revision of the Treaty.—

The causes that have operated to prevent the Revision from now being a fact accomplished, instead of an object looming up in the future, are familiar to you. That those causes have been unforeseen & beyond the control of human agencies, will not be questioned when the events of the past year are reviewed, & I may be permitted to claim, that with the means at my command, I have done all that was possible in the premises, & that I have not been to Peking, & thence transmitted a revised Treaty to Washington, have been no choice of mine, neither have I pretermitted any opportunity or means of accomplishing ends so important.—

The disposition has not been wanting on the part of England, France, or America,—to

have

have improved the present year for the adjustment of their relations with China. but extraordinary & providential circumstances, one after another, have occurred to postpone the attainment of an object so desirable, directly affecting so large a portion of the world, socially, commercially, & politically. The paramount interests affecting their relations to each other & to Nations nearer home, have necessarily demanded & received their first attention, to the exclusion of those of China. — It may yet appear, however, in the progress of events that this has been wisely ordered & that there is no just occasion for dissatisfaction or complaint. But it is to be assumed that another year may be more propitious & that a deliberate & determined purpose exists on the part of the three powers to reach Peking, & to Revise existing Treaties, within a twelvemonth. I am advised by His Excellency Sir John Bowring that an efficient Naval force will be at his disposal in the Chinese waters the coming year, & the recent events at Canton will doubtless increase rather than diminish the number of vessels expected before their occurrence.

The relations of the French Government to that of China have become serious & the "judicial

murder in July last of a French subject in Kwang Si will probably not long remain unavenged. Comte de Courcy the French Chargé d'Affaires, has obligingly furnished me an extract from a despatch he addressed His Excellency Count Walewski on the 28th August last, conveying his views of the measures to be adopted in the revision of the treaty, which I beg to enclose.— [Exhibit A.]

The absolute expediency of negociating at Peking, or as near as possible to the Capital, I regard as a settled point, & that the early season, May or June, is the one to be chosen for the occasion, admits not a doubt. I am unwilling to allow another mail to depart without conveying to the Department a renewed expression of my settled conviction of the importance of these two facts. & again most respectfully & earnestly suggesting the indispensable necessity of <u>increasing our Naval force in China</u>. The number of vessels specified in my despatch to the Secretary of the Navy under date of 28th Oct. 1856. (every sentiment of which I now confirm & to which I respectfully invite attention.) is the least that could be chosen & it is desirable the Commissioner

and

and Commodore have the authority to supply any providential deficiency by temporarily Chartering a small Steamer or Steamers in China. From all I have learned from my intercourse with Chinese Officials the past year & my knowledge of the present condition of the Empire, I am sanguine of the success of well directed negociations in 1857. The present order of things in China cannot continue in statu quo. Firm, friendly & determined policy must be adopted. [and I here venture confidentially to suggest for the consideration of the President & Cabinet the propriety of each of the Plenipotentiaries being authorized by their respective governments to adopt as a last resort any of those measures authorized by the laws of Nations, "when a State refuses to fulfill a perfect obligation which it has contracted, or to permit another nation to enjoy a right which it claims." [Wheatons' Elements of International law p. 362] Were the three Representatives of England, France & America on presenting themselves at the Pei.ho. - in case of their not being welcomed to Peking, to say the French

Confidential

flag

flag will be hoisted in Corea, the English again at Chushan, & the United States in Formosa, & these remain till satisfaction for the past, & a right understanding for the future, are granted, but being granted these possessions shall instantly be restored, negociations would no longer be obstructed & the most advantageous & desirable results to all concerned, secured.

Nothing could be more alarming to this government, & justly so, than the apprehension of the possession of any of its territory by foreigners. This will be a legitimate, effectual & humane policy, far preferable to the distruction of forts, the bombardment of cities, & the destruction of life and property. It is only the extreme state of foreign relations with China to which we have arrived, that authorizes the suggestion of such a startling policy. Treaty obligations have been violated, just claims are treated with contempt, the lives of foreigners are wantonly sacrificed, the supreme Authorities of Western Nations as well as their representatives in China, have been treated with contempt by the Imperial Authorities, Commerce has been impeded and hostile & deadly collisions have been brought about, so that some decisive measures on the part of Western governments have become inevitable. It is as a last resort, not to

how?

be

Confidential

be adopted till friendly application has been made at Peking, that the above suggestion is made, & with a strong probability it will not be necessary; that a mere intimation to the authorities at the North, will suffice, that, if by them compelled, the measure will be adopted, the intimation being made in a way that they shall understand the foreign Ministers are empowered & ready to carry it into effect if need be. If unfortunately driven a step beyond the threat to its execution, the presumption is still stronger that that will certainly prevail, & the last resort of injured Nations will thus be avoided, which, unless superceded by the success of these intermediate measures which are short of actual hostilities, may be the deplorable issue.]

In view of the near approach of the proper season for the renewed attempt to revise the treaty, & the rapidity of time, permit me with great earnestness & respect to solicit the early attention of the Department, & of the President, to the action of the United States Government in China in the present state of the relations of the two Countries. I further presume with deference to suggest, if it still be the wish of the United States Government

to

to pursue a "concurrent" policy with England & France in China, not an alliance, but independent and distinct action yet similar, harmonious & simultaneous, the great advantage of conferring through our Ministers at London & Paris with the Foreign Secretaries of England & France, under instructions from Washington, upon this great subject of common interest.

It affords me pleasure to recall, as the correspondence of this Legation abundantly proves, the most cordial unanimity of sentiment & policy obtains between the Representatives of the three Nations in China.—

Availing myself of this occasion, once more, to renew the expression of my sentiments of personal regard, & high consideration to Your Excellency, & the President.

I remain,

Sir,

Very Respectfully

Your Most Obedient Servt

Despatch No 34 Exhibit A.
12th December 1856.

Extract of Despatch addressed by Comte de Bourqueney Chargé d'Affaires of France in China to His Excellency Comte Walewski Secretary of Foreign Affairs. — Paris. Dated ~~Shanghae~~ 25th Augt 1856.
No. 25. —

****** Expecting thus our success but from intimidation, † I have already had the honor to state distinctly to Your Excellency that our opinion upon the subject is perfectly settled, we do not admit as expedient or advantageous to us to meet with any High Chinese Imperial Commissioners at any place of the sea coast distant from the Capital of the Empire. It is in the nearest vicinity of Pekin, it is at the Peiho that our men of war must be brought together as soon as the season will have become favorable; it is in Pekin itself, at a few steps distant from the Emperor, †, so to say, face to face with him that the Ministers entrusted with the revision of the treaties ought to begin their negociations. It is necessary that the forces congregated at the Pei-ho be considerable; that each Plenipotentiary be provided with a small steamer of war (or a merchant man), drawing as little water as possible, to carry his national

flag

flag to take him up to Tong-cheou. It is necessary, in order to inspire the Chinese government with salutary terror, in order to render unavailing its arm always ready to strike whenever the head directing it does not think of having any reprisals to be afraid of;- in order to avoid a new war with China, it is necessary, I say, that these Plenipotentiaries be followed to Pekin itself by an imposing & brilliant escort of from 1500 to 2000 Soldiers or Marines. If these conditions were not fulfilled, any propositions however skillfully presented would be ultimately rejected; the negociations most ably carried out would, almost infallibly, miscarry.

Winter covers with ice the Gulf of Pih chi le & thus shuts us out from the river which takes up to Tien-tsin & Tong-cheou. It is therefore in Spring, or at the beginning of the summer that we ought to proceed to the Pei-ho. It is the season of deep waters; it is the time also of the arrival of grain junks, prevented from following the great canal up to Tien-tsin - since the insurrection had taken possession of Tchen. Kiang & Koua-cheou. Our men of war, anchored close to the forts

which

which protect the entrance of the river, might forbid the access to it to the convoys of rice in the case it would become expedient to break down, by a vigorous demonstration, the resistance of the Cabinet at Pekin. &c &c &c

True Copy of translation
Thos J Reynolds.

Rec'd 26. Feb.

Legation of the United States.

No 35. Macao. 13th December 1854.

His Excellency.

William L. Marcy.

Secretary of State of the United States.

Washington.

Sir.

Refering to my Despatch No. 30. of the 13th ult. I have the honor to enclose a copy of a communication just received from D. B. McCartee Esqre relating to the subject of that despatch, which I respectfully commend to your consideration

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

Peter Parker

Copy

Enclosure - Despatch No. 35.
18th Dec. 1856.

Shanghai China
23d November 1856

The Hon. Dr. Peter Parker
United States Commissioner in China &c &c

Sir

I have the honor to forward herewith, a copy of a letter addressed by me to the Hon. W. L. Marcy, Secretary of State of the U. S. A., relative to my claims for indemnification for services rendered and expenses incurred by me, while acting as the Consular representative of the U. S. Government at the port of Ningpo. Having become embarrassed and incurred debts in consequence of so acting, and it being highly desirable and necessary that some steps be taken before I leave China, to prevent the interests of my own family and of others from suffering injury in the event of any unforeseen accident occurring to myself, I have placed the whole matter in the hands of Edward Cunningham Esq., formerly U. S. Vice Consul for the port of Shanghai, who has kindly drawn up for me the necessary papers, and has undertaken to transmit the drafts through his firm (Messrs. Russel & Co) for collection. After the papers had been drawn up by Mr. Cunningham's direction and forwarded to me for signature, I perceived that notice had not been taken of the fact that during the time of my informal acting in 1855-56, I was absent from Ningpo, once

for

for a period of one month and once for a period of not quite two months. For this time a deduction ought to be made, unless the long period during which (since 1844) I discharged the duties of a Consular agent of the U. S. A., without remuneration, be allowed to be a sufficient offset. In September 1844, while residing at Chusan, I was requested by the late Henry G. Wolcott Esq., then holding the appointment of U. S. Vice Consul for the port of Ningpo, (from Commodore Biddle) to accompany him to Ningpo in the capacity of interpreter on the occasion of his making his first official visit to the Chinese authorities, in order to be recognized by them. Mr. Wolcott immediately afterwards returned to Chusan, and never again came to Ningpo. I removed to Ningpo from Chusan, in in November 1844, and have constantly resided there ever since. In consequence of Mr. Wolcotts absence and the non arrival of any other Consular officer, the Chinese authorities insisted upon recognizing me as the Consular representative of the U. S. A. from that time forward. In addition to this, the proximity of Ningpo to Shanghai and the inducements held out by Portuguese and others engaged in what is called "Coolie trade," have attracted to Ningpo large numbers of runaway sailors and other desperate characters; who, when attempts were made by the other Consuls to arrest them for their criminal acts, often claimed to be American citizens; thus tending to bring into disrepute

repute the American name, defeating the attempts of the British Consuls to preserve order, and calling forth from them remonstrances at the neglect of the U. S. Government to send proper Consular officers to the port. Under these circumstances, and in the absence of any other person who could so act, although much against my inclination, I was obliged, in addition to my ordinary business to perform all the duties of Consul, interpreter, and clerk; and this, on more than one occasion, when my health and strength were unequal to the task. Without any foreign force to call upon, and with no Government funds at my disposal, I have been obliged to employ Chinese policemen at my own expense, or, as was more than once the case, to go in person to arrest persons of desperate character. Many serious cases of collisions between Chinese and Americans, affrays in which wounds were given and received, and accusations of grave character, have been settled by me without expense to the U. S. Government, and not a few distressed American seamen, who knew no other person to whom they could apply, have been relieved by me from my private purse. These labors and expenses have proved detrimental both to my pecuniary interests and to my health. As You Sir are, I believe cognisant of these facts and also of the fact that my acting appointments from Col. Marshall, Mr. McLane, and yourself, were unsolicited upon my part, and only accepted in the exigency of the case, until some-

one

one might be regularly appointed from the United States, I therefore respectfully request that you will do me the favor to address the Secretary of State upon the subject, and also to forward at the same time a copy of this communication.

I have the honor to remain

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient servant

(Signed) D. B. McCartee

late United States Acting

Consul for the port of Ningpo

Recd 7. March

Legation of the United States.

No. 36. Macao. 27th December 1856.

His Excellency.

William L. Marcy.

Secretary of State of the United States.

Washington.

Sir.

I avail myself of the P. & O. Steamer. Extra. which leaves Hong Kong on the 30th inst. to acquaint the Department with the important events that have occurred since the date of my last Despatch. On the night of the 14th inst. and the following day the Foreign Factories at Canton, including the United States & other Consulates, were completely consumed by fire. Circumstantial evidence goes to prove that this destruction of the Factories has been at the instance of the Imperial Commissioner, as precautions were previously taken to prevent the conflagration from extending to the Chinese buildings in the vicinity. As yet I have no official document in which the Authorities declare the act to be their own. The Imperial Commissioner shows no indication of a disposition to yield. He availing himself

5

of every means in his power to resist, & annoy his foe. A British resident at Whampoa, has been torn from the grasp of his wife & daughters, and forcibly abducted by the Chinese, and it is reported he has been decapitated. Great apprehension is felt for the safety of Hong Kong, & that the torch of the incendiary, under the orders of the Imperial Commissioner, may be applied in that Colony is not an improbable event. Chinese servants and Compradores in the foreign service at Hong Kong, are becoming alarmed for the safety of their families in Canton and elsewhere, if they remain against the orders of the Chinese Authorities to leave. Admiral Seymour remains in possession of Canton, to a certain extent, and has entrenched his forces at the site of the Factories. Whether he will, before receiving reinforcements, carry on offensive measures, I am not informed.

I beg to refer you to the accompanying correspondence, for the views I entertain and the policy I deem judicious to pursue in these trying times. We have indeed reached a momentous crisis in China, & the action of Western powers cannot be longer delayed. I write specially to convey to the Department my irresistable conviction of the indispensable necessity of a much larger United States Naval

force

force in China than indicated in Despatch No. 44 of the 12th inst. A force not less efficient in imposing than the Japan Expedition of 1853-4. is most desirable, not to say indispensible. And when the interests at stake are considered, a commerce with China, already amounting to twelve or eighteen Millions per annum, & that too susceptible of a very great increase, the ends to be sought, if attained, will amply compensate for all the expense.

There is no improvement in the policy of the Imperial Commissioner Yëë, towards the United States. His reply to my Despatch of the 9th inst. is most unsatisfactory, except as it furnishes fresh confirmation of sentiments long entertained and often reiterated, that it is only at Peking our grievances can be redressed and the Treaty revised. I take the liberty of transmitting you a copy of a Confidential letter just received from His Excellency Sir John Bowring, from which it appears the English & French governments are determined upon their course in China, & will early the ensuing season, pursue it in an efficient manner, and I entertain the hope that the United States will do the same.

The latest advices from the Northern ports, are favorable as to their tranquility, but so long as hostilities exist in the South

they

they will remain a source of solicitude.

I respectfully invite your attention to the subject of indemnification, & the plan proposed in my Confidential Despatch of the 24th inst. to the British Plenipotentiary, and here renew my request for instructions touching that complicated and difficult matter. Besides claims for property personal & real burnt or otherwise destroyed, our citizens are disposed to urge claim for indemnification for losses sustained by the stoppage of trade, affecting contracts, interest on money, demurrage on vessels & the like. There has been no blockade, no declaration of war, in which case the principles of international law, & precedents in like circumstances, would become a sufficient guide, and any instructions will be most serviceable & acceptable.

The Chinese will make indemnity only under the pressure of force, but that the British government will obtain indemnity for its subjects, there can be no doubt, and to realize it for all who have been involved in losses by the hostile collisions between the English & Chinese at Canton, will make no difference to the former.

The irregularity of Steam communication with Hong Kong, in these troublous times, induces me to avail myself of the

first

first opportunity of forwarding my despatch which will be in the morning, and several subjects contained in the accompanying Exhibits must be reserved for future comment. I will only add my respectful & earnest desire, that at an early date our relations to China may receive from the home Government the consideration & action, which, from their great importance & exposed condition, they so imperatively demand.

With sentiments of distinguished consideration, I have the honor to remain,

Sir.

Your Excellency's
Most Obed. Servant.
Peter Parker

Index

Despatch No 36. 27th December 1856.

A.	1.	Commodore Armstrong to P. Parker	9	Dec.	1856
	2.	P. Parker to Com: Armstrong	13	"	"
	3	Do Do	15	"	"
	4	Com: Armstrong to P. Parker	17	"	"
	5	P. Parker to Com: Armstrong	19	"	"
B	1.	O. H. Perry to P. Parker	17	"	"
	2	P. Parker to O. H. Perry	20	"	"
6.	1.	Do Count de Jouvency	15	"	"
	2	Sir J. Bowring to P. Parker	18	"	"
	3	P. Parker to Sir J. Bowring	22	"	"
	4	Count de Jouvency to Sir J. Bowring	23	"	"
	5	P. Parker to Sir J. Bowring	24	"	"
	6	Sir John Bowring to P. Parker	26	"	"
D.	1	T. H. Hyatt to P. Parker	2	"	"
	2	P. Parker to T. H. Hyatt	15	"	"
E.	1	His Excellency Wang to P. Parker	19	Nov.	"
	2	P. Parker to C. Jones	20	Dec.	"
F.		R. C. Murphy to P. Parker	16	"	"
G.	1	His Excellency Yei to P. Parker	22	"	"
	2	Circulars to U. S. Citizens. Canton	27	"	"

Despatch 16. Exhibit A. 1.—

27 Decr. 1856.

Copy.

U. S. Flag Ship. San Jacinto.
Whampoa 9th Decr 1856.

My dear Sir,

I do not see that there is any necessity for further correspondence with the Imperial Commissioner relative to the affair of the forts. They have been destroyed as a punishment for the assault upon our boat, & if nothing more was done than this, we are at least upon an equal footing. As you will see by the last letter of Yeh, however, there is an intimation that the United States flag will be respected for the future until this is shown to be incorrect by some other act. I would prefer to let matters remain as they are. I therefore hope that, in any correspondence you may open with the Governor General, no allusion should be made to this transaction.

I am,

Very truly Yours &c
(Signed.) Jas Armstrong
Comdg. U. S. Naval Forces
East India & China Seas.

His Excellency
Peter Parker
U. S. Commissioner to China &c &c
Macao.

True Copy.
Thos. J. Reynolds.

Despatch 36. Exhibit A 2.
27 Decr. 1856.

(Copy.) United States Legation
Macao 13th Decr 1856.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 8th inst. inclosing copies of your correspondence with the Imperial Commissioner which I perused with great satisfaction. and I have now to congratulate you, the officers & men of your Squadron, & all concerned, on the favorable position you have obtained. I conceive that you have conducted the correspondence with dignity, moderation, firmness, & great prudence, & your purpose to pursue the subject no further meets my fullest approbation & concurrence, as I doubt not it will that of the government at Washington.

I have deemed it due to our fellow citizens, particularly those who have great commercial interests at stake, to inform them of the present state of our relations to the Chinese government at this port, in as concise terms as possible, & a copy of my note to the U. S. Consul is enclosed. Your letter of the 9th inst. did not come to hand till the evening of the 11th, & my Despatch to the Imperial

Commodore. James Armstrong.
Commander in Chief of the U. S. Naval forces in the East India & China Seas.—
Flag Ship "San Jacinto."

Whampoa.

Imperial Commissioner went forward on the 10th inst. & a copy has been forwarded to Washington. It is only an allusion I have made to the affair of the Barrier forts in adverting to the unfortunate state of affairs generally which I found on my return from the North; I have alluded to the transaction, as one that is past, & in a manner more likely to prevent any re-currence to it hereafter on the part of His Excellency, than if I had passed it in silence, but in deference to your request, as in consequence of Dr. Williams' unexpected return to Macao the Despatch has not yet been sent in, the allusion shall be omitted.

In the last letter of Yiĕ. of the 5th inst. - His Excellency states, 'there is no matter of strife between our two Nations. Henceforth, let the fashion of your flag be clearly defined that this be the token of the friendly relations between our Countries'.- This I regard as a delicate mode of expressing that the question of honor between us is settled thenceforth we are friends. In my judgment it would not be politic to carry matters to further extremes to extort an apology in a prescribed form. To have stopped short of the point you did had been an error, now, without fresh reasons, to pursue it farther is inexpedient.

Permit

Permit me to convey to you & through you to the gallant Commanders Foote, Bell & Smith & to the distinguished officers of your squadron, & the men of dauntless courage, not forgetting those who were necessarily deprived against their choice the opportunity of taking a part in the active operations, the extreme satisfaction I experience in the manner in which on this occasion they have vindicated the honor of our flag, & the important prestige you & they have secured for it in all coming time, in the view of the Chinese government & people. Whilst deploring the painful casualties, let us all be thankful to the God of Nations, that they have been so few.

In the anticipation of the Revision of our Treaty at or near the Capital, when a thorough review of the past & present will come up, & a vigorous effort will be made to establish all our Commercial & reciprocal relations upon an amicable, honorable and just foundation, my policy in resuming correspondence with the Imperial Commissioner in regard to local & pending interests of our government & citizens will be regulated accordingly. With sentiments of sincere regard, I have the honor to remain, Sir

Most Respectfully
Your Obed.t Servant.
Peter Parker.

Despatch 36. Exhibit A 3.
27 Decr. 1856.

(Copy.)

Legation of the United States.
Macao. 15th Decr. 1856.

Sir.

I have despatches from Fuh Chow under date of the 10th inst. & Amoy of the 2nd in which our Consuls refer to their unprotected state. Mr. Jones has enclosed me a copy of a letter conveying strong expressions of dissatisfaction on the part of the Merchants at Fuh Chow in relation to the insecurity of life & property at that port: & the Consul expresses his conviction that "some force is absolutely necessary". Mr. Hyatt writes "that intelligence of the events which have recently transpired at Canton & vicinity, is beginning to create some sensation among the people of Amoy & is producing some uneasiness among the foreign residents in the absence of any men of war. He states however, he has no apprehensions", but on account of his guardianship of the interests at that port, deems it incumbent upon him to call attention to the subject. That the "Portsmouth" was under orders to proceed to the Northern Ports, when unexpectedly & unavoidably detained at Canton. our Countrymen

well

Commodore James Armstrong.
Commander in Chief of the United States Naval forces in the East India & China Seas. —

Flag Ship "San Jacinto".

Whampoa.

well know. So far as I am informed no particular anxiety is felt for the maintainance of the peace at Ningpo or Shanghae. Should winds favor so that the "Portsmouth" which you have contemplated dispatching on this service, could stop in at Amoy for a day it will be well. but her visit to Foo Chow I conceive to be far more important: the state of Amoy, so far as appears will hardly justify a long delay in reaching the former port. -

Whilst submitting this information & these views, I have the honor to remain,

Sir,

Very Respectfully
Your obed. Serv.t
Peter Parker.

Despatch 36. Ephibit A 4.
27 Decr 1856.

Copy.

U. S. Flag Ship San Jacinto.
Whampoa. 17th Decr 1856.

Sir.

Mr Consul Perry made me a call about midnight last night, & informed me that he was on his return to Canton from Hong Kong. I informed him that the Consulate & all the Merchants houses were destroyed by fire & that there was no longer an object in my keeping a ship thereto give protection.

He told me that he should hoist his flag as soon as he got up there, if he had to do it with his own hands, & go up on board of an English vessel-of-war to stay himself. —

I communicate this much in relation to Mr Perry for your Official action.

I have the honor to be,

Very Respectfully
Your obed Servt

Signed Jas Armistrong.
Comdg U. S. Naval Forces
East India & China Seas.

His Excellency.
Peter Parker.
U. S. Commissioner to China
Macao.

Despatch 36. Exhibit A.5.
27th Decr. 1856.

(Copy.)

Legation of the United States.
Macao 19th Decr. 1856.

Sir,

I am in receipt of your communication of the 17th. I regret very much to learn therefrom the language addressed you by the U. S. Consul. Mr. Perry. in relation to the flag at Canton. It must have been uttered under excitement & without due reflection, both as respects the person addressed, & the purpose expressed of "going on board an English vessel of war" under the circumstances. Mr. Perry is now here & I have expressed to him in person my regret at what has occurred.

He has proposed to withdraw to Macao. but I advise his return to Whampoa where he will still be within his Consular jurisdiction, & can visit Canton as occasion may require. - Although our Merchants have retired from Canton, I am informed they still have property there to a large amount, and subjects may arise requiring reference to the Consul when it would be most desirable for him to be at

Commodore James Armstrong.
Commander in Chief of the U. S. Naval Forces in the East India & China Seas. -
Flag Ship "San Jacinto." -
Whampoa.

at hand.

I have the honor to remain

Sir.

Very Respectfully

Your obed.t Serv.t

Despatch 36. Exhibit B.1.

27 Dec. 1856.

(Copy.)

United States Consulate.

Canton. 17th December 1856.

Sir.

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that on Sunday evening last at about eleven o'clock, the Chinese fired the factories in the rear of Chow Chow, Old English, Swedish, Imperial & American Hongs. At first some hopes were entertained that the fire might be extinguished, & vigorous efforts were made by the English seamen & marines to stop its progress, but all attempts were found to be useless, as by twelve o'clock the following day all the factories to the west of Fletcher & Co including the United States Consulate - excepting Number one of the Imperial & number one of the Swedish Hongs, were entirely consumed. The building occupied by Messrs Fletcher & Co was blown up by order of the British Admiral to prevent the fire spreading to the factories in the English Garden, but without avail. as all the factories in that quarter, were, by midnight, entirely consumed, with the exception of the one occupied by Messrs Wardly & Co. The only foreign buildings left standing & intact are, the Church, the Clubhouse

His Excellency and

Peter Parker

U. S. Commissioner &c &c &c

Macao.

& the factory occupied by Messrs Wardley & Co

That the work of incendiarism was the premeditated act of the Chinese Authorities. I have not the least doubt, as from time to time fresh jets of flame sprung up in places entirely unexposed to the flame or sparks. & I have been informed that several of the English Officers witnessed the Chinese applying the torch in different places.

As it is impossible under the present circumstances for Americans to remain in Canton to look after their property stored in the different pack-houses, which amounts in value to a large sum, I have thought it my duty, independent of other considerations to remain on the spot, in order that I may be able to inform our countrymen, at the earliest moment of the possibility of their removing the same, as well as to be convenient in case the Chinese Authorities should desire to communicate with me upon official business. At the same time I am aware that it will be at great personal inconvenience & risk, as the U.S. Sloop "Levant" which arrived here on the 12th inst. & as I supposed for the protection of American lives and property, has since been ordered to drop down to Whampoa, possibly she & the steam Frigate "San Jacinto" may ere this reaches you, be ordered to drop down

still

still further. even to the safe anchorage of Hong Kong leaving all American interests at Canton & Whampoa to the entire mercy of the Chinese, imposing upon me the painful necessity of throwing myself upon the courtesy & protection of an English man-of-war.—

Before closing I beg leave to call your attention to the conduct & promptness of Commander Smith - commanding the U.S. Sloop-of-war "Levant" then lying at anchor in the Macao passage, who, as soon as he learnt that the factories were on fire despatched a boat to enquire whether he could be of any assistance. I replied that if he would detail forty or fifty men to assist in saving American property a great deal might be saved. on the receipt of my reply Commander Smith immediately detailed the men, & I am happy to state that through his personal exertions & that of the several Officers detailed they succeeded in rescuing from the flames a large amount of furniture belonging to American Citizens

I have the honor to be,

Sir.

Your Most Obed. Servt.

(Signed) Oliver. H. Perry.

True Copy.

Thos. J. Reynolds.

Despatch 36. Exhibit B 21

27 Decr 1856.

Copy. 1

Legation of the United States.

Macao. 20th December 1856.

Sir,

Your Despatch of the 17th informing me of the destruction by fire of the principal part of the Foreign Factories at Canton including the United States Consulate has been duly received & will receive full attention hereafter. My object at present is to advert to the question that naturally arises in regard to your official duty under such unprecedented circumstances, as respects the Consular flag. Referring to the note of Commodore Armstrong of the 17th inst. of which you have a copy to your proposition made to me in person since your arrival here, to withdraw to Macao, it is my advice that you return to Whampoa where you will still be within your Consular jurisdiction, & will be able to visit Canton as occasion may require & circumstances justify. Although our Merchants have for the moment retired from Canton, they have as I am informed large interests still there, & subjects may arise requiring your action, and if at Whampoa, or Canton, as

may

O. H. Perry Esqr
U. S. Consul.

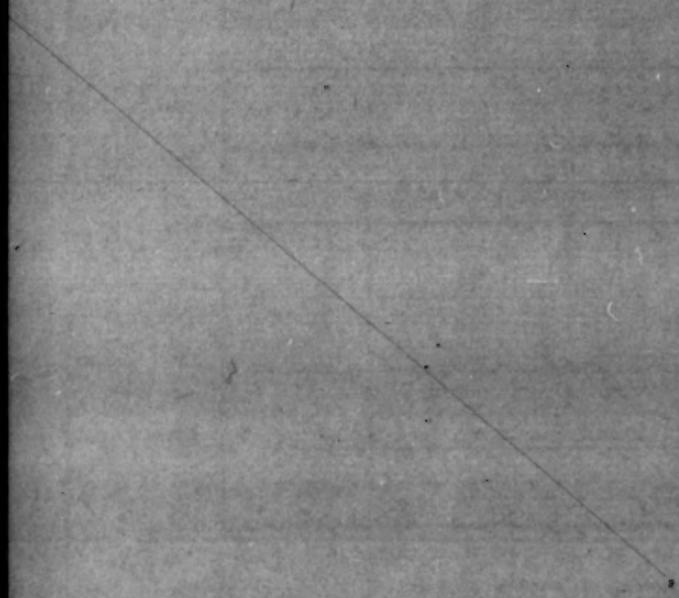
may be, you will be able to meet any emergency promptly.

When duty requires your presence in Canton, & it is practicable to be there, it is desirable your flag should indicate the fact, if possible to hoist it. But for the single sole object of displaying the flag, it is not incumbent upon you to incur risk & inconvenience to do it, as the indispensable duties of the Consulate can be discharged at Whampoa, where the flag-ship is now stationed.

If it becomes necessary formally to withdraw the flag from Canton, I shall wish it to be done formally & deliberately, & with due notice to the Imperial Commissioners, & a statement why it is withdrawn.

You express the opinion that the burning of the Factories was the premeditated act of the Chinese Authorities. This is a point to be settled. As it will be material so far as our relations to the Chinese Government are concerned whether the fire was the work of a mob & in spite of the Imperial Commissioners efforts to prevent it, or a government act, & I shall be glad to receive from you any evidence going to settle the question.

Respectfully
Your Obed.t Serv.t
Peter Parker



Despatch 36. Exhibit C. 1.

27 Decr 1856.

C-1

(Copy.)

U. S. Legation

Macao. 15th Decr 1856.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatches Nos 7. 13. 14 & 17. The extraordinary state of affairs at Canton on my return from the North & subsequently must be my apology for not earlier replying to the same.-

Refering to the despatch of the 8th of August which unfortunately did not come to hand till 29th Novr I beg now to express my entire concurrence in the expediency & ability of the measures proposed by H.E. Count Walewski. & yourself & shall be most happy if before the despatch of another Mail they can be carried into execution. I deprecate the delay which I have occasioned but in the mean time the communications of the three Legations with their respective home governments will have conveyed our individual & to some extent our common views upon the mode, time & place of revising the Treaties, upon which I am happy to believe,

great

The Honorable
Count R. de Lourcy.
Chargé d'Affaires of France in China
Macao.

great unanimity of sentiment exists.

In regard to your polite mention of the services of Commander A. A. Foote of the U. S. S. "Portsmouth" rendered to the Vice Consul of H. I. M. at Canton which has, as requested been duly communicated to Commodore Armstrong, permit me to say it was merely "a proof of the cordiality of the relations which unite our two Countries" - which in a change of circumstances, the Naval Officers of H. I. My would be equally prompt & cordial in re-ciprocating.

I have now to thank you for your favor of the 12th ult. informing me of the similar instructions received by yourself & Sir John Bowring regarding the protection of Shanghae against any attempt at a Chinese Insurrection that the French & English governments had given orders to the Commanders of their Naval Stations to repulse by force any fresh attack the Rebels shall direct against that City. & that H. E. Count Walewski had instructed you to come to an understanding with Sir John Bowring & myself as to the measures it may be convenient to take for execution of that determination. I shall be most happy to enter into conference with my respected Colleagues upon this subject also, when an opportunity offers for considering the previous subject of

the

the Revision of the Treaties. I concurr with you, that by last advices, from Shang Hae, fortunately, there is no necessity for the active presence of our Vessels of war at this moment.

Of the propriety of the Treaty Powers protecting by force the City of Shang Hae against capture by such a band as overthrew the Imperial Authority in 1853. I think there can be no doubt to a like class of Rebels I presume the French & British Governments refer in the above instructions alluded to. Were an organized revolutionary power having possessed itself of all the rest of the Province, to claim Shang Hae also, a different subject would present itself to one to which these instructions would not apply

Accept the assurance of the distinguished consideration with which I have the honor to remain.

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant,

(Peter Parker.)

Despatch 36. Exhibit C. 2.
27 Dec 1856.

C-2

(Copy.)
No. 308.

Superintendency of Trade.
Hong Kong. 18 Dec 1856.

Sir.

The grave events which have occurred at Canton - the indiscriminate destruction in the Factories of all the property to whomsoever belonging by the incendiary proceedings of the Chinese, - have brought about a crisis so important to the common interests of the Treaty powers, & indeed to the subjects of all Nations having commercial dealings in China, - that I am desirous of ascertaining whether or not any course of action has been determined on by Your Excellency - & if not, of discussing with Your Excellency the steps which it would be desirable to take in the present condition of affairs. -

I make this suggestion with the view of maturely considering the line of policy which it would be desirable to adopt, - & of cementing and consolidating that harmony

His Excellency
Dr. Peter Parker
U. S. Commissioner to China. -
&c, &c, &c,

harmony of purpose, which I have every reason to believe would best represent the intentions of our respective Governments and which in my judgment would best advance the objects of all.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Excellency's
Most Obedient
Humble Servant.
(Signed.) John Bowring.

True Copy.
Thos. J. Reynolds

Despatch 36 Exhibit C. 3.

27 Dec 1856.

C – 3

(Copy.) Legation of the United States.

Macao. 22nd December 1856.

Sir.

I hasten to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's despatch of the 18th inst. which unfortunately did not come to hand till Sabbath morning of the 21st inst. Your Excellency adverts to the great events which have occurred at Canton & justly observes they have brought about a crisis of great importance to the common interests of the Treaty Powers.

Under date of the 15th November, Your Excellency very clearly defined the state of affairs at Canton, that the question which originally regarded the British Flag alone, has expanded into one of immense importance affecting the whole diplomatic relations with China, & in the reply I had the honor to make on the 17th November. I stated my views of the general policy to be pursued. These views

His Excellency.

Sir. John Bowring L.L.D.

Her Britannic Majesty's Plenipotentiary to China.

&c &c &c

Hong Kong.

views remain unchanged. In the progress of events questions arise, which, from the blending of subjects of specific & common interest may render difficult the application of that policy. Actual Hostilities, without any formal declaration of war, on either side have now for some weeks existed at Canton. In the course of these hostilities between the British & Chinese Authorities the property of citizens & subjects of other powers has been destroyed, their trade interrupted & great losses incurred. If in a time of peace the factories of all Nations had been wantonly destroyed, as in other instances of outrage & violation of Treaty, a prompt redress should be taken, if possible. The present state of this Port qualifies the act. On the part of the U.S. Government, the Imperial Commissioner has been duly notified that the Government of China will be held responsible for the "entire security of person & property" "guaranteed by Treaty". Whether the destruction by fire of the United States Consulate, & the residences of U.S. Citizens, has been the work of a Mob, or the premeditated act of the Chinese Government is a material question, & requires evidence which I have

taken measures to obtain.

Admitting the burning of the Consulate & factories, has been done in a manner constituting a just cause of war upon China, & that the Congress of the U. S. had so decided, we are not prepared to declare it, nor is there adequate U. S. Naval Force present, to commence that war, especially in the unprotected state of the other ports. The recent acts of the Chinese Govt. at Canton, so far as they affect American interest, constitute a new item in the list of grievances to be redressed hereafter. — Your Excellency cannot attach more importance to the subject, or feel more cordially desirous than I do, of cementing and consolidating that harmony of purpose which will best represent the intentions of our respective governments, & best advance the objects of all. & I shall at all times be most happy to discuss with your Excellency the steps most desirable to be taken in the existing condition of affairs.

I have the honor to be Sir,
Your Excellency's
Most Obedient

Humble

Despatch 36. Exhibit C. 4.
27 Dec. 1856.

C — 4.

Translation

[illegible] French Majesty's
[illegible] d'affaires
[illegible]

[illegible] Sir John
[illegible], K. B. &c &c
[illegible]

Nº 20.

Macao, 25th December 1856

Mr Plenipotentiary, I have just received the despatch which you did me the honour to write to me on the 23d instant.

My two official communications of the 16th and 23d November last have exposed to Y. E. the cause I had thought it my duty to follow in the midst of the serious circumstances which you had been good enough to entertain me with.

It is useless to refer herein again to the considerations which I have had the honour to represent to Y. E. in the above stated communications. They have convinced you, I sincerely hope, that, if I was unable, without due authorisation from my Government, to share in the measures of rigor which you had thought fit to adopt, I have, at least, spared nothing, in the limits prescribed to me by my obligations, in order to contribute to the success of your cause, by the moral support which I have intended to afford to it.

the Imperial Commissioner, Vice-King of the two Kouang, whose Government, of from the very beginning of hostilities, had been made responsible by me for any prejudicial consequences likely to arise therefrom to my countrymen, has likewise been acquainted by my despatch of the dated 18th Amember last, that they all had already left Canton wherein the care of their affairs did no longer detain them and that I would let display therein the French Flag against as soon as the guard would have been re-established. restored.

Therefore, I should be rather at a loss how to consider the burning of the Factories as an attempt directed either against our Flag or our material interests and I would be disinclined to believe that I am allowed, in the present circumstances, without (before) previously to give up — before having been duly instructed thereto by H. J. M's Government, that line of policy which I had pointed out to myself — in order to adopt a plan of an increased action more active part or to take a position more decidedly hostile towards the Chinese Authorities.

We cannot doubt, Mr. plenipotentiary, but that those instructions will be a new pledge of the happy union which is to secure the triumph in China of the common policy of our two Governments

and which, Ag. S. and myself, we have so much
at heart to maintain.

Accept, please, the assurance of my
high consideration.

Signed: Ct de Comburg.

Copy.

Despatch 36. Exhibit C.S.—
27 Dec.r 1856.

Confidential

C. 4

Legation of the United States.
Macao. 24.th Dec.r 1856.

Sir.

The subject of indemnification for property destroyed losses sustained by the operations consequent upon the measures Her Britannic Majesty's Government has adopted to obtain satisfaction for the violation of treaty stipulations by the insult to the British Flag at Canton, is becoming one of much interest to Citizens of the United States.

In this confidential manner I beg to communicate with Your Excellency upon the subject in submitting my views, shall be happy if they meet the favorable opinion of Your Excellency. Of the issue of the controversy between H. Ms. Government & the local Authority of Canton there can be no reasonable doubt, and, assuming that Your Excellency will hold the Government of China responsible for all the consequences to the property personal & real, & to a certain extent to the commerce,

His Excellency—
Sir John Bowring L.L.D.
H. B. M.s Plenipotentiary to China.
&c. &c. &c.
Hong Kong.

commerce, of British subjects, growing out of the measures adopted to redress the infractions of the Treaty on the part of the Chinese, & that at a proper time H. M's. government will demand & receive for them a just indemnification, it occurs to me that the adoption of the precedent of 1840, 1. 2, in which H. M's government included in its demands upon the Chinese the losses sustained on that occasion by others, will very much simplify & facilitate the final settlement of the recent losses & others likely to be sustained before the difficulties are ended. -

The same measures that must necessarily be pursued, & which will ultimately prevail, to obtain indemnity to Her Majesty's subjects, will suffice for the satisfaction of all concerned. - It will impose upon Your Excellency no additional labor of correspondence, & no augmentation of coercive measures.

The exact & just amount of claims of the citizens of the United States may be ascertained & duly audited without troubling Your Excellency with any care or responsibility, & the aggregate amount be added to the sum total, finally required from the government of China. This suggestion is not only sustained by precedent, but by the fitness of things, & I apprehend in a change of circumstances would

be

be cheerfully adopted by the Government of the United States.—

Should Your Excellency not feel authorized to reply affirmatively without referring the subject, I shall be pleased to learn that Your Excellency will so far entertain it as to refer it for the consideration & determination of the Government at London. If so I shall lose no time in acquainting the Government at Washington with the proposition I now submit, when the whole subject may be deemed worthy the amicable consideration of the home Governments through the medium of their Ministers, either at London or Washington.—

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient

Humble Servant

Peter Parker

Despatch 36. Exhibit C. 6.
27 Decr 1856 C.

Confidential.

Hong Kong. 26th Decr 1856.

My dear Dr Parker.

I am now able to tell you that the British Government has come to an understanding with that of France and that it is determined to take decisive measures for addressing grievances & for obtaining a revision of Treaties.—

We feel all the importance of co-operation and common action, and hope the Fleets which will proceed to the North will have the advantage of your presence and that your flag will accompany ours as in 1854.

I am
My dear Dr Parker.
Most faithfully yours.
(Signed) John Bowring.

His Excellency
Dr Peter Parker
U. S. Commissioner
&c &c &c

True Copy.
Thos J Reynolds

Despatch 36. Exhibit D. 1.

27 Decr. 1856.

6 Pms.

Consulate of the United States.

Amoy 2nd Decr 1856.

Dear Sir.

Intelligence of the events that have been transpiring at Canton & vicinity during the past few weeks, is beginning to create some sensation among the people of Amoy, & is producing some uneasiness & anxiety among the foreign residents here. The Chinese, thus far, have been as quiet & peaceful as usual; & the Mandarin Authorities here are evidently indisposed, of their own volition, to interrupt the peaceful relations which it is so manifestly their interest to promote, rather than disturb. But no one can tell how soon orders may reach them from the Evil Genius of Canton, instructing them to assume an attitude of annoyance & secret persecution, if not of open hostility towards all foreigners residing or sojourning at this place. Hence the symptoms of uneasiness & insecurity which are beginning to exhibit themselves among most of the foreign residents, in the absence of any man of war, or other effective means of defence, in case a sudden emergency should arise.

It seems strange, that while an active state of war is in existence at Canton, between the Chinese & at least one, if not two foreign Nations, every man of war should be withdrawn

from

from all the towns on the coast, inhabited by foreigners, & all their interests & personal security left to the mercy or caprice of a people who recognize no code of honor or principles of humanity or justice. As for myself, I have no appiehensions & I am no alarmist. - I have seen to much of the harmless spite & pusillanimous character of the Chinese, to entertain any fears under the present state of affairs. But on account of the immediate guardianship which my position makes it my duty to exercise over the safety and interests our Countrymen residing at this port, & of our ships visiting it, I have thought it incumbent on me to call your attention to the subject, & leave it for you to decide what course ought to be pursued.

I called on the Taoutae of Amoy on the 12th inst, on his return from a somewhat protracted visit into the country. He received me very civilly & politely, gave me a salute on entering his residence - & deported himself with the utmost cordiality during my visit - inquiring when I should have my residence furnished, on Ku-langsu, saying he would again visit me when it should be completed.

Yesterday the Taoutae returned my call, having sent a messenger with his card,

the

the day before, to see if his visit would be agreeable & convenient. I had the flag of the Consulate raised, on his landing, & during his visit, which continues for about an hour. He manifested the same good feeling & friendly courtesy as on former occasions - made no allusions to the former complaint against my building upon Kulangsu, made by his predecessor, but appeared entirely reconciled & well pleased. He inquired what news I had from Canton? I told him I had nothing later than what was brought by the Steamer, last week. I remarked that the Canton people had behaved very bad - he assented to it, & replied that the Amoy people were also bad - He inquired when we should have another man of war here? I told him that I expected one soon, that it was their duty to pass up & down the coast, to intercept the pirates, & to see to American interests at all the ports. The Taoutae said they were glad to have the pirates caught, & would pay for all that were brought in!

Altogether, the interview was a very satisfactory one. My son officiated as Interpreter on the occasion.

Several months since, I sent to the Department of State, an application for leave of absence to return to the United States, for a few months, the latter part of this winter; but I have not yet received

an

an answer to that application. And, unless the state of affairs here shall be such as to render my presence indispensable, I may find it necessary to make my arrangements for returning home before I hear from the Department on the subject. But I presume you will be able to render me all the advice & assistance in the matter that shall be necessary. The situation of my family & private affairs makes it my imperative duty to go home for a while, at least. But I know of no suitable person, as yet, to take charge of the Consulate in my absence. I have suggested the matter to Dr. Macgowan, of Ningpo, but it is hardly probable that he could be induced to come here for that purpose. Perhaps you may know of a suitable person for the place. One of our American Missionaries here might, perhaps, be induced to attend to the business for me, if it were not necessary that the person so doing should reside in the Consular mansion; while they would not like to leave their own houses & immediate fields of labor in Amoy. My son, I suppose, might attend to the duties, but I desire to take him home with me. I should like, if possible, to leave by the middle of February, or the first of March; & if you should have any important Government Despatches to transmit to Washington, I could go the Overland route, to expedite my passage; otherwise, I may

find

find it expedient to go by sailing vessel.

You will doubtless recollect my stating to you, on your visit here, the fore part of July last, the circumstance of the American Missionary Chapel in Amoy having been broken into by Chinese burglers, & robbed of Chandeliers & other property. I applied, repeatedly, to the Mandarins to aid in detecting the thieves & in recovering the property; & they as often promised to do so, & quite as often neglected to do anything at all. Subsequently, I had some boats & other property stolen, & notified the local Authorities of it, & where I had heard the property could be found, if the proper efforts were made by them to obtain it, & offered to send a man with their officers to the place to identify the property, &c., they promised to attend to it, but did nothing of the kind, until all traces of the property were finally gone. — So, also, I had a sum of money ($250) due me from Chinese who were able to pay, & for a long time promised to do so, but did not. I also submitted this case to the Mandarin Authorities, & requested their aid to collect the money. But, as with all other cases, nothing was done. We heard of the Church property being in the hands of pawn-brokers, & notified the Authorities of it. This was several months ago - & yet neither the robbers or property have been produced.

Trusting

Finding it utterly useless to make any further efforts for the recovery of the property or money due, I requested the consignee of the American Ship "Herculean" to deduct from the seven or eight thousand dollars duties which he was to pay to the Chinese Custom House, the amount of our claim, which was altogether $350. - he did so - & I notified the Taoutae of it, some three weeks since; he has not made any objection to it, or spoken of it, although I have called on him, the on me, since the amount was collected. The Hae Quan made some objection to it - but I referred him to the Taoutae & have heard nothing further on the subject.

Very Respectfully Yours.
(Signed.) T. H. Hyatt.

Hon. P. Parker
Commissioner, &c } Macao.

True Copy:
Thos. J. Reynolds.

Despatch 36. Exhibit D.2.

27 Dec 1856.

Copy. 1

U. S. Legation
Macao. 15th Decr 1856.

Sir

Your Despatch of the 2nd inst. came to hand on the 13th. The symptoms of uneasiness & insecurity which begin to exhibit themselves among foreigners at Amoy in the absence of a man of war, are natural. but I apprehend the local disturbances at Canton will not affect the other ports. Commodore Armstrong has brought the affair of the Barrier forts, to a favorable termination & the Imperial Commissioner states "there is no subject of strife between us." Under date of 17th Oct. I wrote you that the U. S. S. "Portsmouth" was under orders to visit the Ports & that we should touch at Amoy, but for unavoidable detention at Canton she had been with you before this. I have this day addressed the Commodore upon the subject of your despatch, & of a similar one from Teik Chow. & shall be glad if Capt. Foote is able to reach Amoy en route though the monsoon is against it.

In the event of your obtaining leave

Thos. H. Hyatt Esqr.
U. S. Consul
Amoy.

leave of absence, or without it, being compelled to leave Amoy, you may transfer for safe keeping the Flag, Seal, Archives, & other property of the Consulate to the Revd Mr Doty, if in the absence of any secular Citizen of the U.S. & in view of the advantage to our Citizens at that Port to have some one authorized to correspond with the local Authorities & the Consular duties being comparatively light, Mr Doty will consent temporarily to act, I will, on being so informed, furnish him the requisite Authority.-

Under date of 26th January last I conveyed to you as well as the other Consuls the Instructions of the Department of State that "our Consuls will not be justified in any instance, in "stopping the duties" without the sanction of the Legation, & then only as a last resort:- It is therefore with extreme surprize I learn (three weeks after the fact) from your despatch before me that for the trifling losses by burglary, & a bad debt, amounting altogether to the paltry sum of $350.- you had resorted to that extreme measure!-

You are hereby instructed on the receipt of this note to pay the sum of $350.- at once & without fail to the Hae Guan, & communicate to the Taoutai you have done so by instruction, at the same time

informing His Excellency that the Government of the United States whilst adhering to the Treaty on their part relys upon that of China to fulfil the plain provisions of the Treaty & that if full justice is not done in the premises as regards the burglary & debt, you will be obliged to refer the same

Respectfully
Your Obed.t Serv.t
Peter Parker.

Despatch 36. Exhibit C. 1.
37 Dec. 1856.
C-1

Translation

Wang. Governor General of the Provinces of Fuh Kien and Cheh-Kiang, a President of the Board of War, a second rank censor, &c &c thereby replies.

I have received Your Excellency's letter (of Oct.) in which you observe (Here he quotes the same entire.) On reading this I understand that on the former occasion when the National letter was sent up to Peking it was in consequence of my not acting in accordance with the regulations of the Court which required that His Excellency the Imperial Commissioner the Governor General of the Two Kiang should memorialize upon it, that the General Council found fault and returned it, thus rectifying my error in managing the business. It was not done with any intention of insulting the United States, or of casting disrespect on one of her Citizens. The remarks in your present communication, therefore, are made under a misapprehension of the state of the case, & I now reply in the hope that you will, on receiving this, act as desired in my former note. For this I now reply hoping at the same time that your happiness may daily abound.-

To His Excellency.

Peter Parker
Minister & Plenipotentiary
of U. S. in China.
19th November 1856.

True translation

Despatch 35. Exhibit E. 2.

27 Dec. 1856.

2.

Copy.

U. S. Legation.
Macao 20th Dec. 1856.

Sir.

Your despatch of the 24th Sept. your No. 28. of the 15th Nov. your resumé of the subject of duty bonds of 17th & No. 29. of the 20th ulto. have been received.

I immediately communicated with H.E. Sir John Bowring upon the subject of the bonds for duties given by British subjects at Sin Chow & His excellency informs me that "under date of the 29th Nov. he wrote Mr. Consul "Medhurst directing him by every way in his "power to assist in the recovery & payment of "all duties due by the subjects of Her Majesty."

I trust before this reaches you the bonds will have been paid, that the decision of the criminal Board at Peking will have been received in relation to the murder of Mr. Cunningham, the duties paid over, & that whole matter satisfactorily adjusted.—

At the earliest moment practicable I addressed Commodore Armstrong upon the

Caleb Jones Esq.
U. S. Consul.
Sin Chow.

the unprotected state of our Citizens & Commerce at Foo Chow. As you are aware the U.S.S. "Portsmouth" was under orders in October to visit your port, & had done so long before this but for her unavoidable detention at Canton — The Naval Question between the Commodore & Imperial Commissioner has terminated as favorably as could have been expected. After taking satisfaction for the insult to the flag by levelling to their foundations, four of the strongest forts of the Empire, the Imperial Commissioner writes Commodore Armstrong "there is no subject of strife between our two countries." — This is the present understanding. If a different impression obtains among the Chinese at Foo Chow you will do well to take means to correct it, & call upon the local Authorities, if need be to conform to our Treaty of Amity accordingly. The "Portsmouth" is again under orders to proceed to the Northern ports so soon as she is ready for sea, which will be soon, & it is not improbable that Foo Chow will be the first port she visits. You may rest assured, & so inform our fellow Citizens, there is neither neglect or indisposition, on the part of either the Civil or Naval Authorities, in rendering them all the protection in their power & each would be

most

most happy were it practicable to place one man-of-war at each of the ports. but until this is possible, the ports most exposed should receive the first attention, & Tsui Chow may be one of them.-

Relying upon you to keep me constantly advised of the state of affairs at your port

I remain,
Sir,
Respectfully
Your Obed. Serv.t
Peter Parker

Despatch 36. Exhibit F.

27 Dec: 1856.

(Copy.)

Consulate of the United States of N. America
Shang Hai. 16th Dec: 1856.

To: His Excellency.
Dr. Peter Parker.
&c &c &c

Sir.

A Steamer called the "Nim" has arrived at this port. the Captain handed his sailing letter into this office & asked to be reported as an American Vessel. I have declined to do so. — Enclosed please find a copy of his sailing letter, also the builders Oath. From which papers I conclude 1st. That she is a foreign bottom. 2nd. the evidence is not sufficient to show that she has even been regularly registered as an American Vessel as provided by the laws of the United States. & finally. that she is not "en route" to the U.S. for the purpose of obtaining a Register. For these reasons I have declined to notice her as an American vessel. The crew list of this vessel is more remarkable still, it purports to have been issued at Bombay & styles the vessel of "Boston U.S.A." It is so large on I should send you an exact copy. But as she goes to Hong Kong you can examine her yourself. I am astonished that she with these papers & under these circumstances could

have

have passed so many Consular Offices without objection. The Consular Certificate of discharge at Hong Kong has no signature, & shipping Articles issued at Bombay contain these words. "from Bombay to Penang, Singapore & Hong Kong. From thence to any other port or ports in the China Seas & backwards & forwards between ports in India or China, time of service not to exceed six months."

This extract from the shipping Articles goes to show in strong light the destination of this vessel & I particularly call your attention to it.

The Captain urged as an argument against my refusal to acknowledge the claim to Nationality of his vessel, that he dined with Commodore Armstrong & say you at Hong Kong & that neither objected to the vessel, although he states you were cognizant of the circumstances surrounding her.—

In accordance with your Circular No 2 dated 2nd Feby. 1856 I submit the subject to your Excellency & if your Excellency should approve of my course I hope some active steps will be taken to prevent the vessel in question from wrongfully using the flag of the United States.

I have the honor to be

very

Very Respectfully -
Your Obed. Servant
(Signed) R. C. Murphy -

True Copy.
Thos. J. Reynolds

Copy:

Seal of Consulate Glasgow

Coat of Arms of U. S. A

Seal of Consulate Glasgow

Consulate of the United States of America. — Glasgow

I, Phillip J. Heartt Consul of the U. S. A for the port of Glasgow & its Dependencies do certify & make known to whom these presents shall come, that Joseph B. Breck know to me to be a citizen of the United States, has, upon his oath declared himself duly authorized & appointed to take charge of the Steam Brigantine "Mist" bound to Bombay, which the owners intend to Nationalize on her arrival in the United States: that said Brigantine was built on American account, & is owned exclusively by American citizens; & the said Master further certifies that the said Ship has one deck, two Masts, that her length is 130 5/10 feet, that her breadth is 21 2/10 feet, & that she measures 191. 82/100 tons, & that she is Brig rigged, & with a screw propellor, & two Engines of 30 horse power each, & that she has been built in Dumbarton on the River Clyde, in accordance with the description he has presented, copy of which is attached to this document: In consequence of which, & in order to give the said Master the right to Navigate the Ship under the American

Flag

Flag. & the said Consul hereby request all Sovereigns States. Friends. & allies of the United States. all Public functionaries Commanders of Men of war. & to all whom those presents shall come. to let him safely & freely pass with his said Ship. without doing or permitting any act whereby he may be interrupted in the prosecution of his voyage. but on the contrary give him all favor, succor, & assistance whenever he may require it

Given under my hand & Official Seal in Glasgow aforesaid. this 29th day of April, in the Year of our Lord 1856 & of the Independence of the United States the Eightieth. ——

L. S.

(Signed.) Philip T. Heartt.
U. S. Consul.

Consulate of the U. S. of N. America.
Shang Hae. 16th Decr. 1856.

The foregoing document is a true and faithful copy of the Original handed me this day by J. B. Breck. —

(Signed.) R. C. Murphy.
Consul.

L. S.

True Copy.
Thos. J. Reynolds.

Copy. 1

Builders Certificate for Steamer &c. —
measured under Merchant Shipping Act 1854.

We do certify, that we built in our Building Yard at Dumbarton, in the County of Dumbarton, in the year 1856. the Ship or vessel called the "Min" of Boston, U.S. for the account of Messrs Russell & Co Merchants Boston U.S — Said vessel being of the following description and dimensions:— That she has one deck, two masts, brig rigged, round sterned, clenchers built, no galleries a scroll head, & that the Frame work & plating is of iron; that her length from the fore part of Stem, under the Bowsprit, to the aft side of the head of the Stern post is One hundred & thirty feet five feetths: her main breadth to outside of outer Plank is Twenty one feet two-tenths; her depth in Hold from Tonnage Deck to Ceiling at Midships is Eleven feet two tenths; & she admeasures under the Tonnage Deck one hundred & Ninety one $\frac{92}{100}$ Tons; she has rounds houses, Break or Poop, which admeasures ——— Tons & her goop tonnage is one hundred & ninety one $\frac{92}{100}$ tons, she is propelled by Screw propellor, & has an Engine-Room the actual measurement of which is ——— Tons being ——— per Cent. of Gross Tonnage making the allowance for Engine Room

32 per Cent of Gross Tonnage, once & a-half of actual measurement, or 61 32/100 Tons; & the admeasurement after deducting allowance for Engine Room one hundred & thirty 44/100 Tons; she has two Engines, the estimated Horse Power of which is sixty Horses; & that the above-named & designed Individuals were the first Purchasers thereof, in the following proportions viz. Russell & Co. 64/64 of Boston. U.S.A. from which Port said vessel hails, & belongs to. —

Given under our hand at Dumbarton this 26th day of April 1886. —

(Signed) Wm. Denny & Brothers.

Consulate of the U.S. of North America. —
Shanghae. — 16th Dec: 1886.

The foregoing document is a true and faithful Copy of the Original handed me this day by J. B. Breck.

(Signed.) R.C. Murphy.
Consul.

L.S.

True Copy.
Thos J Reynolds

(Copy.)

Despatch 35. Exhibit G. 1.—
29 Dec. 1892.

Yeh: Imperial Commissioner, Governor General of the Two Kiang Provinces, a Baron of the Empire, &c. &c. hereby replies.—

I received your communication of the 9th of Dec. on the 21st inst. with which having made myself fully acquainted I herewith reply to its several points in detail.

First You remark that, "On the 16th of Feb. the U.S. Consul at Canton informed me that on the 31st January, as the American steamer "Willamette" was proceeding on her way & was within the Bogue, near the second Bar, she was fired upon by two or three Official boats. The Consul has already informed the district magistrate of Pwányü of the occurrence, that he might inquire into it, but hitherto no reply has been received to his communication, & I now request that your Excellency will cause the matter to be investigated."— On receiving this I have ascertained that latterly the pirates have simulated the style & appearance of Government boats, numbers of them going about everywhere on the rivers & causing trouble. There can be no doubt that the Revenue cruisers belonging to the district of Pwányü made no such mistake as firing into this steamer, and furthermore the place where it occurred is not under

the

the jurisdiction of this magistrate. Enquiries previously made have also clearly shown that it was not done by Governmental cruisers. and therefore no one can doubt that it was by pirates pretending to be such.-

Second. You further say. "The U. S. Steamer "Cum Tsa", when on a pleasure trip was fired upon by the fort near Hiáng shan, & the Consul has already addressed Your Excellency upon the subject. I have seen the reply to the Consul, & it is most unsatisfactory, being directly contrary to the provisions in the Treaty of Wang Hia.'- Respecting this matter I may remark that no fort has ever been erected by the government at this spot: though one has been built here by the people to protect themselves from pirates. When the communication was received, inquiries were immediately made, and the district magistrate of Hiang Shan reported in reply, That this fort was placed there in 1854 by the Gentry of the district who had collected subscriptions & built it to defend themselves from insurgents. Besides too, bands of robbers are ready to take advantage of the present disturbances with the English, to plunder, and therefore all forts must be in readiness to guard against them. It appears, also, that hitherto foreign vessels have not gone through

these

these streams." This report has been received in reply. In your communication you observe, "From time immemorial it has been optional with foreigners to pass & repass between Macao & Canton either by the Bogue or by Hiáng shan, either passage being allowed by the Treaty, & it could not be called breaking the laws to do so." Now as to this, every body knows that foreign Ships enter & depart from Canton by the Bogue, & no one has heard of their going by way of Hiáng Shan either in or out of Port. By the third Article of the Treaty of Wang Hia it is provided "That Citizens of the UStates can proceed at pleasure with their vessels & merchandize to or from any foreign Port, & from either of the said five Ports to any other of them. But said vessels shall not unlawfully enter the other Ports of China." &c. &c. Now the water courses & passages in the district of Hiang shan have not been frequented by foreign vessels. The gentry of that region have built a fort themselves & no foreign vessels had passed thereby before, so it was difficult for them to discriminate. Hereafter if the people belonging to American vessels indulge no idle wishes & orders are given that they go in those passages which have constantly been used from of old & not again pass by

this

this place in Hiang-shan, it will be all managed according to the treaty.—

Third.— You again say "I addressed your Excellency on the 31st March requesting that you would examine the claim (of American Citizens) on the Chinese Government amounting to $100,000 and more." This case, however, is not one of debt owned by Chinese Merchants, but one of your country's Ships which went into the waters near the district of Sin-ning where she was plundered of this amount by the pirates who resorted there. Why did she not open her guns upon them when she saw them come near, & not allow them to commit this misdeed? I have already issued orders to the Naval officers in command there to seize these miscreants, & punish them with the utmost severity.—

Fourth.— You also add, "On the 1st of November the U.S. Consul Perry addressed your Excellency in relation to a proclamation offering rewards," &c. At the time when the English so causelessly attacked Canton with their troops, the gentry throughout the City were in a state of uncontrollable excitement, issued a placard inviting subscriptions to be paid into a fund, & also requested me to issue a proclamation stating the scale of rewards to be given.—

The

The first proclamation was issued because some of the insurgents had dressed themselves in foreign clothes, and thirty dollars were offered for each one who might be seized: but when the English had cannonaded the City for more than a month, & the gentry & people had all become more & more exasperated a reward of one hundred taels was offered for every head taken from those English who were firing upon the City. But in every case a careful distinction has been made, & rewards are not given in a careless manner. I have also repeatedly told Consul Perry, that in order to avoid risk of mistake, all American Merchants & citizens should withdraw for the time to another place, & then they would not be involved or suffer. This was said in a truly friendly spirit & desire to promote it. If Americans have already left the provincial capital what anxiety can they have on this score (i.e. that they will be seized.)?

Fifth - You observe finally, "That the United States' Consul, under dates of Oct. 22nd & Nov. 1st requested of Your Excellency that the person & property of American citizens should be protected." &c. When the English so causelessly assaulted the City, the people were in a state of uncontrolled excitement, & when it was probable the two sides would join

battle. I was afraid that I should have no leisure to protect the Citizens of the U States. as I have already repeatedly informed Mr Perry. The guard house at the head of Old China Street was the station for the soldiers who usually protected foreigners, Officers & men being placed there for that purpose; but when the English forcibly expelled them & placed their own troops to guard this & the neighboring Streets, the Chinese troops could not get access to them, though that was by no means because China is weak & unable to protect those who come to her shores. — Respecting what you say about interdicting intercourse between Chinese and American merchants, so that imports cannot be sold, nor goods already bought be shipped off. I need only refer to the hostile acts of the English for its cause. Since they began, the foreign Merchants having been restricted & the Native dealers having moved away from Canton how could trade be carried on under such circumstances for it was not the Officers of Government who interdicted it? If American merchants have suffered losses, I beg your Excellency to refer to the English Government to settle them for the Chinese Government has no concern with it, as I have already again & again told Mr Perry. —

Then

Then, too, as the governments of China & the United States desire to preserve the friendly relations existing between them, it is highly desirable that the present state of things be considered in so doing. The English have acted in such a violent manner, regardless of all reason & propriety & caused great suffering to the Chinese, & as every mercantile establishment is obliged to suspend its operations, it is indeed a great injury & hindrance to the foreigners of all nations your Excellency has a clear perception & can carefully reflect on these things.

Wishing you an increase of every happiness, I now send this reply.

22nd December 1856.

To His Excellency.
Peter Parker
U. S. A. Commissioner & Minister
Plenipotentiary to China
&c &c &c

Despatch 36. Exhibit G. 2.

27th Decr. 1856.

Legation of the United States.
Macao. 27th Decr. 1856.

To,

The Merchants & other Citizens of the United States

Canton.

His Excellency Peter Parker Commissioner of the United States of America to China &c. &c. &c. referring to the notice of the 9th inst. hereby makes known that the reply of the Imperial Commissioner to His Excellency's despatch of that date was received last evening - & that with the semblance of a desire to maintain friendly relations between the two Countries, the same disposition to evade obligations, misrepresent facts, & erroneously interpret Treaty stipulations which for years has characterized the correspondence of Imperial Commissioners still obtains with His Excellency Yei:- the resumption of trade, to any extent, at the Port of Canton, during the existence of the local hostilities, is not encouraged by the tenor of the communication now received, & means more ample

than

than those at command and will be required to meet the emergency of the public interest of the United States in China, and the satisfactory & proper adjustment of the relations of the two governments is an event yet future.

By Order.

(Signed.) S. Wells Williams

Secretary of U.S.A. Legation

++ o—

Rec'd 25th March Mr Gerrish.

United States Legation.

No 37. Macao. 10th January 1857

His Excellency

The Secretary of State of the United States.

Washington.

Sir.

I have the honor herewith to transmit the Department, for the Fifth Auditor,

First.- my Account Current for Salary 1856.

Second.- " do do for Losses on Exchange with Certificates A.B.C. D&E.

Third.- " do do for Contingent Expenses 1854&5. with Vouchers 1 a 4

Fourth.- " do do do 1856. with Vouchers 1 a 23.

Fifth.- A copy of the Treaty, Act of 1848. & Decrees & Regulations for Consular Courts in China.

I am aware that by Circular Instructions printing is not allowed without the sanction of the Department, which I now wish to obtain. The Correspondence of this Legation the past years shews that the subject of other governments have been in repeated instances plaintiffs in the United States Consular Courts, in which the laws of the United States rule. In some of these cases large pecuniary interests were involved, & it was necessary that the laws which were to apply should be known, & to place them within reach of

all

all whom they concern. I deemed it indispensable to publish them in the form submitted & to enable the printer to do so I subscribed for one dozen copies, for the use of the Legation & the several Consulates, for which I respectfully request your sanction, as a legitimate & necessary item of public expenditure. I have also paid a bill for printing, by order of my predecessor Mr. McLane, which was not presented till after His Excellency's departure from China. The honor of our government was involved in the payment of a debt contracted by its representative, & I have paid it.

The charges for freight &c on the Legation Library & furniture are high owing to the local hostilities. But for dint of effort, & at this expense, all had now been in the ashes of the foreign Factories at Canton. It was with difficulty they were removed. I have consulted American interests, rather than Personal, in taking each of the local Journals, three of Hong Kong, & one of Shanghai. All are as necessary as any one of them. Seeing that the aggregate Incidental expenses for the two years fall far short of the annual appropriation of $500 — $1000. for the two years, & that every item has been required by the public interest I confidently trust the same will be approved & allowed by Your Excellency.

Had I had a Steamer at my service as did my predecessor some of the items for travelling expenses in the passenger Steamers had been avoided. The

public

public service on which I have thus travelled, & the members of the Legation, has been urgent & unavoidable, & the expenses, such as have been charged to the public fund ever since the Legation was established in 1844. Though travelling in a Government vessel had better comported with the office of Commissioner, it has been more economical in the manner in which it has been done. There are various items of expense incidental to travelling, such as Coolie Boat hire, &c., which might have been legitimately charged, but which I have omitted in the accounts now rendered.

I detect an error of $10. in Voucher No. 18. accompanying the account for Contingent Expenses for 1856. with which I shall credit the Government in the account for the current year. This Despatch concludes the correspondence of the past year.

With sentiments of distinguished consideration,

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient Servant,

Peter Parker

Despatch No 37.

10 January 1857.

Enclosure No. 5

("Treaty of Waitangi")

in Library

P.K.

April 13 1920.

Rec'd 28th March Mr Dennis

Legation of the United States.

No 1.

Macao. 13th January 1857

His Excellency.

The Secretary of State of the United States.

Washington.

Sir.

I have the honor to transmit the Department herewith the correspondence of the Legation since the date of my Despatch of the 27th ult. (embraced in Exhibits A. B. 1 2 3. 6 to 7. D. E. F. & G. 1 2 7.) to which I respectfully invite your attention.

It were impossible within the limits of an ordinary despatch to convey to you a full idea of the political aspect of affairs in China at the present moment. The barbarous & even savage mode of warfare pursued by the Chinese Government is revolting in the extreme, & to what extent it may be pursued before an adequate force shall arrive to arrest it, it is impossible to predict. On the 30th ultimo the Postal Steamer "Thistle" under the English flag, when on her way from Whampoa to Hong Kong, in open day was captured by Chinese assassins in the employ of Government, who embarked in her as passengers, & availed themselves of their position to murder eleven Europeans, severed their heads from their bodies, carried them off as trophies, & burnt the steamer. The heroes in this tragedy,

are

are said to have received $7000. reward from Government have been decorated with official buttons & rank. Several Chinese Compradores in the employ of the English have been seized & decapitated by their own Authorities. Incendiarism and assassinations are the order of the day. The Imperial Commissioner Yëi has succeeded to a surprising degree in raising in the breasts of the people their inate hatred of foreigners, especially English, to an extent unknown in modern times. The enclosed proclamation (Exhibit C.) will convey some idea of the means by which he has attained his end. He has employed the strongest terms of obloquy and contempt in the Chinese language. The present passive policy of Admiral Seymour His Excellency misinterprets, & in the mean time one success after another which that policy permits him to achieve, inspires his emissaries with a spirit of daring quite remarkable. Kong-Kong is now in effect under Martial law. Some unsuccessful attempts upon the Colony have been made, & it is just reported that two Chinese officers have been arrested at Hong Kong as spies one of whom has turned "Queens Evidence" and revealed the plot for the firing of the Colony. There has been some disposition to disturb the tranquility of Macao also by cutting off supplies.

which

which on the 29th ult. I joined in protesting as a violation of our Neutrality, of the Treaty & of the laws of Nations. (Exhibit B2). The Governor of Macao called on me yesterday & informed me the reply of the Imperial Commissioner to the protests of His Excellency, & of the French Legation & Spanish Consul General, which were in advance of mine, has been received in terms of a satisfactory character, yet foreigners in Macao are not altogether secure. The regular troops of this colony number about 250,- there is a small batalion of Militia also. But the entire force of all foreign powers in China united are inadequate to the existing state of our relations to China. 1000 troops from India, are reported by a Steamer of the 10th inst. to be on their way hither, & may arrive soon.

Intelligence from the Northern ports is favorable, generally, but still there is a sense of great insecurity. Should the hostile & barbarous policy which obtains in the South extend to the North, it is appalling to contemplate the condition in which all foreign residents will be placed from want of more efficient protection, to say nothing of the prospects of Commerce. The progress of events the past fortnight has been such as to give important emphasis, to my appeal of the 27th ultimo for a large increase of the United States Naval force in China & that too at the earliest practicable moment, and I entertain the hope that even the imperfect sketch I have been able

to present of the state of affairs here will not fail to impress the Department with the perilous condition of all foreign interests in China, among which those of the United States are not the least, & that physical aid commensurate with the exigencies of the crisis will not be withheld.

Avowedly the relations subsisting between China & the United States are those of Amity, & to that view of our relations I shall adhere at all hazards, though it must be confessed, powerful influences have conspired to shake that purpose, & all my firmness has been taxed, in maintaining a neutral & friendly policy. (Exhibit B 2)

The subject of indemnification for losses already sustained continues to engross the attention of our Citizens. The inventories are not all completed, but from the figures I have seen, it is apparent the aggregate sum will amount to hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars, & property to a large amount is still exposed, to say nothing of lives. I have not failed to fasten, by protests, upon the Chinese Government its responsibility under the Treaty, & by the principles of international laws; for the losses which its own insane policy has incurred (Exhibit B!). Yet my conviction is strengthened of the wisdom & justice of the plan proposed in my Confidential

Despatch

Despatch of the 24th ult. to Her Britannic Majesty's Plenipotentiary, which is not altogether discouraged by His Excellency's reply of the 27th ult. (Exhibit A.) in which Sir John Bowring expresses the "belief that the British government will most cheerfully confer & co-operate with that of the United States, not only as regards compensation for wrongs inflicted in the past, but for the purpose of placing the interests of all nations ~~of all nations~~ on more satisfactory foundations for the future."

The true state of the case of burning the Factories is that it formes a part of the hostile retaliatory measures of the Chinese Commissioner against the English, which His Excellency chose to adopt, not from enmity to the friendly powers, but notwithstanding he well knew it would involve friends as well as foe, & in so determining, he incurres the grave responsibility of sacrificing <u>all</u> for the paramount object of gratifying his revenge upon <u>one</u>. It is only a phase in the expansion of the case which in its commencement involved the British flag <u>alone</u>, but has come to affect all the diplomatic relations. (Despatch No. 31. 22nd Nov.r 1856. Exhibit F.).

The great recommendation of the proposition to include the item for American losses in the

sum

sum total of the British demands for indemnification is that it imposes no extra trouble or expense to the English government & no sacrifice of the power of union will be sustained. for aside from the question of indemnity for losses incident to a controversy ab initio & specifically belonging to one nation there are numerous others, plain & broad, of common interest to the Treaty Powers, upon which they may with great propriety join issue with the Imperial Government, & thus present a front that shall awe it into submission to right & justice, & prevent the expenditure of treasure, & the appalling destruction of life which the Chinese might be unwise enough to incur, in hope of victory in single combat, with either of the three great occidental nations.

It had been my choice to accompany the correspondence embraced in Exhibit G 1 @ 7. with a separate & full despatch, as the importance of the subject merits. but I must content myself for the present with a few passing observations.

It is my impression that the information sought by Messrs Sampson & Tappan in relation to my instructions & official action as respects the "Coolie Trade" should have been sought through the Department rather than to me directly, as it is to my Government I am responsible for my official measures, & to meet its approbation my

grand

grand aim. In view of the progress of that inhuman trade & the evils that have attended it, it is a source of satisfaction that my action was taken so promptly & the terms of the Prohibitory Notification of the 10th of January 1856. were so strong & unambiguous. The view therein expressed "that amicable relations were being jeopardized & lawful Commerce imperiled & the lives of those engaged in the pursuit were exposed," have been strongly corroborated the past year. It is a subject of common report that large rewards had been offered for the head of the Spanish Coolie Agent who met his untimely end on the 'Thistle' on the 30th ultimo. The conviction forces itself upon my mind that the foreign name & character have perceptibly suffered from this traffic, which has become tributary to the flood of deadly & hostile feelings of the Chinese people towards those whom they choose to denominate barbarians. A circumstance of serious import. In the war of 1840-1-2, the Contest was with the Government of China, & the mass of the people took comparatively little interest in the war, but if His Excellency Yeh goes on succeeding in creating a popular passion in annoying & opposing foreigners, they will have a new & formidable element with which to contend, & when the common

hatred

hatred of the Chinese roused against foreigners shall become stronger than the insurrectionary spirit towards the Manchows a new affinity will be formed as beneficial to the reigning Dynasty as it will be troublesome to civilized nations.

Various subjects are now placed in abeyance by the existence of local hostilities, & matters of immediate concern take precedence of others more remote. Among them the Currency question has attracted & will again receive my careful attention, though I despair of a permanent & complete remedy till one is provided by the Revision of Treaties.

With sentiments of distinguished consideration, I have the honor to be,

Sir.

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient Servant.

Peter Parker.

Index

Dispatch No. 1. 13th January 1857

A.	Sir John Bowring to Peter Parker claims &c.	Decr	29th	1856
B1.	P. Parker to Imperial Commissioner Protest	"	22	"
B2.	Do to Do Protest	"	29	"
B3.	Do to Do	"	30	"
C1.	Commodore Armstrong to Imperial Commissioner	"	12th	"
C2.	Do to P. Parker	"	19	"
C3.	P. Parker to Com: Armstrong	"	29	"
C4.	Do Do	"	29	"
C5.	Com: Armstrong to P. Parker.	"	31	"
C6.	Do Do.	Jany	7	1857
C7.	P. Parker to Com: Armstrong.	"	8	"
D.	C. Jones to P. Parker	Decr		
E.	H.E. Yeh's Proclamation			
F.	Manifesto of 12 Streets	Winter of		1856
G1.	Messrs Sampson & Tappan to P. Parker.	June	24	"
G2.	P. Parker to Sampson & Tappan	Sept	8	"
G3.	Proclamation of H.E. Pih Kwei. Govr of Canton	April	14	"
G4.	An Argument respecting Kidnapping			
G5.	P. Parker to Messrs Sampson & Tappan	Jany	15th	1857
G6.	Proclamation &c of Tsái Acting Magistrate of the district of Hsin	Augt	2nd	1853
G7.	Extracts from Correspondence on the subject of Emigration from China			

Despatch No. 1. Exhibit A.

13 Jan.y. 185[illegible].

(Copy.)

No. 330.

Superintendency of Trade.

Hong Kong. 29th. Dec.r 1856.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge Your Excellency's Despatch, dated 24th inst. marked Confidential.

The destruction of the Foreign Factories by Chinese incendiaries was an act not directed solely against the persons & property of British subjects, - but against the persons & property of the subjects of every nation connected with that locality.

Her Britannic Majesty's Government has been advised of the progress of events, & I shall no doubt receive instructions as to the steps I am to take in reference to compensation for injuries done, & for securities against the repetition of outrages, & violation of Treaty engagements, matters in which we have a common concern.

I have every reason to believe that the British Government will most cheerfully

His Excellency.
Dr. Peter Parker
United States Commissioner.

cheerfully confer & co-operate with that of the United States, not only as regards compensation for wrongs inflicted in the past, but for the purpose of placing the interests of all nations on more satisfactory foundations for the future.

Meanwhile I shall not fail to forward to the Earl of Clarendon copy of your Excellency's letter & of this my reply.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient

Humble Servant

Signed. John Bowring.

True Copy

Thos Reynolds

Despatch No. 1 Exhibit B.

13 Jany. 1857.

(Copy.)

Legation of the United States.

Macao 22nd December 1856.

Sir

The Undersigned Commissioner & Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to China has the honor to address Your Excellency to state, whereas on the 14th & 15th inst. the residences of American Citizens at Canton including the Consulate of the United States were utterly destroyed by fire either by the orders of Your Excellency or by a Chinese Mob which it was incumbent upon the local Authorities to have restrained, involving the loss of property to a vast amount, notwithstanding the repeated applications of the U. S. Consul to Your Excellency to afford the protection which the Treaty guarantees & the reiterated Notifications to Your Excellency of the obligations of the Imperial Government to respect the Neutrality to grant entire security of person & property, to Citizens of the United States as provided by treaty;- the Undersigned, as in duty bound, hereby informs Your Excellency that the government of the United States looks to that of China for the indemnification of the property destroyed & the losses

His Excellency &c.

Imperial High Commissioner

&c &c

Canton.

losses thus sustained in a time of peace & friendship between the two Countries.

The Undersigned also informs Your Excellency that preliminary to the payment of these great losses, the Citizens of the United States have been notified to prepare, in Duplicate, inventories of all their property destroyed & losses sustained, in the manner indicated in the despatch of the U States Commissioners addressed to Your Excellency on or about the 20th September 1853. all of which will in due time be presented for indemnification.

Deeply regretting the ruinous state of affairs at this Port, which might easily have been avoided, the Undersigned Minister avails himself of the occasion to renew to Your Excellency the expression of his desire for the perpetuity of the good correspondence which should ever exist between the two great nations. & had the honor to remain.

Sir

Your Excellency's

Most Obed. Servant

Peter Parker

(L.S.)

Despatch No. 1. Exhibit B. 2

13 Jan 7. 1857.

(Copy.)

Legation of the United States.
Macao. 29th Dec 1856

Sir

I am informed by His Excellency the governor of Macao, of a disposition on the part of the Chinese Authorities in this vicinity under Your Excellency's direction to disturb the tranquility of the Colony by cutting off supplies of food & by molesting Chinese subjects in the employ of foreigners, but His Excellency expresses the opinion that this is done by the local Authorities under a misconstruction of Your Excellency's orders, which I trust will prove to be the case. Your Excellency has repeatedly commended the Portuguese & French for withdrawing from Canton, & expressed a wish Americans should temporarily go to some other place. A number of American families & citizens are now residing in Macao. & seeing the neutrality of the three nations of Portugal, France, & the United States towards China, should Your Excellency allow the said local

To Authorities

His Excellency

Yeh

Imperial Commissioner

&c &c &c

Canton.

Authorities to carry out the purpose of stopping supplies & molesting Chinese who in conformity to the treaties, are in their service. I must protest the same so far as the United States are concerned as an infraction of the treaty & the laws of Nations.

With sentiments of distinguished consideration I have the honor to be.

Sir

Your Excellency's

Obedient Servant.

(Peter Parker.)

Commissioner & Minister

Plenipotentiary of the United

States of America. - to China

L. S.

Despatch 1. Exhibit B. 9.

13 Jan.y. 1857.

Copy.

Legation of the United States.
Macao. 30th December 1856.

Sir.

The Undersigned Commissioner & Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to China, has the honor to be in receipt, on the 26th inst. of Your Excellency's Despatch of the 22nd which he has perused & fully understands. The Undersigned regrets to learn therefrom that Your Excellency has not seen fit to comply with the reasonable & honorable amend proposed for the violation of the Treaty by the wanton assault upon the U. S. flag by the Seang Shan fort, to have done which had been regarded as a fresh proof of Your Excellency's just & friendly disposition. That matter therefore remains to be settled hereafter. In relation to the case of the Chilian Barque "Caldera" Your Excellency asks" why did she not open her guns upon the pirates when she saw them come

His Excellency. — Yeh.
Imperial High Commissioner.
&c &c &c

Canton.

come near & not allow them to commit such a deed"?

From this interrogative the Undersigned apprehends Your Excellency cannot have perused his despatch of the 31st March last in which Your Excellency was informed that the vessel was in a sinking condition when attacked by pirates & not in a state to open her guns. He therefore begs to refer Your Excellency to that despatch, which is hereby confirmed, & to inform Your Excellency respectfully but distinctly, that the government of the United States will not be satisfied till that of China shall have fully indemnified their citizens for the actual losses thus sustained, as is most reasonable & just. Your Excellency states most correctly "as the governments of China & the United States desire to preserve the friendly relations existing between them, it is highly desirable that the present state of things be considered in so doing". Now what is the state of things at Canton? There exists a controversy between Your Excellency & the High Authorities of great Britain, but, on the one hand His Majesty the Emperor has not declared war against England, neither on the other, have the British Authorities even taken the preliminary step to a war of declaring so much as a blockade of the port. Whilst this is the exact position of the Chinese & English the

United

United States are Neutral, the friend of all, the enemy of none. It is therefore manifestly right they should be treated as a neutral & friendly nation, & the property & persons of their Citizens should be respected & their treaty rights not interfered with. It is with much satisfaction the Undersigned learns from Your Excellency's despatch before him that "China is not weak & unable to protect those who come to her shores," and "it is not the Chinese Officers of government who have interdicted the trade of the United States at Canton" &c.

The Undersigned Commissioner as in duty bound, has now to inform Your Excellency that Citizens of the United States have imported Merchandize, stored in Ware houses at Canton, others have goods contracted for ready for shipment, the money in hand for payment thereof, & vessels waiting to receive them. The Undersigned therefore addresses Your Excellency specially to inquire if you will now allow these goods to be exported, & the property in Ware-houses, removed to a place of security, granting such facilities as by treaty they are entitled to & that no harm shall be done them their goods, or their vessels by either the Civil or Military Authorities, in so doing.—? Should the British Officers throw any obstacles in the way, then, as Your Excellency suggests, they will be responsible for the consequences. As these goods, both imports & exports, are in an exposed condition, & the sooner they are removed from

danger

danger the letter for all concerned, Your Excellency is earnestly requested to favor the Undersigned with an early reply.

The Undersigned avails himself of the occasion to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of his high regards, best wishes, & has the honor to remain

Sir.

Your Excellency's

Obedient Servant.

Peter Parker

L.S.

7

Despatch 1. Exhibit C. 1

13 January 1857

United States Flag Ship "San Jacinto."
Whampoa 12th Decr 1856.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's communication of the 10th inst. at 1. P.M.

Your Excellency seems to lay stress upon the United States flag retiring from your jurisdiction because the French & Portuguese have done so. I will again remind Your Excellency that the Government of the U States does not permit its officers to yield any of its national rights from the example of other nations. Your Excellency may not be aware that there are at this moment two European Consular flags flying in Canton, & therefore, to take that of the United States away would be making the sacrifice of its rights the more apparent. But, as my only purpose is to maintain the rights of my country's flag, & to secure the peace & harmony now existing between our Countries, & as it is also Your Excellency's wish to preserve that peace, it will run no risk from a part of my force being in

His Excellency Yeh.
Imperial Commissioner
&c &c &c
Canton.

in Canton, if no national injury is done to that force. The officer in charge of it will have instructions to place himself in such a position as will not interfere with your operations. But as from the recent trouble between us, many of your people may not know the present friendly purpose of Your Excellency. I would suggest as the best security, & the evidence of it, that Your Excellency issue a Proclamation making it known. By forwarding me a copy of the proclamation it will do away with the necessity of my trespassing upon Your Excellency's time with further correspondence & will be the best means of preventing future trouble

I avail myself of this opportunity to return Your Excellency's good wishes.—

I am.

Very respectfully

&c &c &c

(Signed) Jas Armstrong.

Comg. U.S. Naval Forces

in the East Indies & China Seas—

(L.S.)

True Copy

(Signed) A. Vanden Heuval

Commodores Secy.

True Copy.

Thos. J. Reynolds.—

Despatch No 1 - Exhibit C 2.

13 January 1857.

Copy

U. S. Flag Ship "San Jacinto."
Whampoa 19th Decr 1856.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt this day of your enclosures of the 13th & 15th instants.

I shall regret if you have written to the Imperial Commissioner that any reference would be made to me of difficulties existing prior to that of the Barrier Forts, as any hostile action upon my part, based upon those transactions, would be inconsistent with the terms of my correspondence with the Imperial Commissioner, & I would not feel justified in such action without special instructions from our Government.

I am very much gratified to find that you express yourself in such favorable & complimentary terms, respecting the course I have pursued, & with assurances of regards.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully
Your Obed.t Servt
(Signed) Jas Armstrong.
Com.r U. S. Naval forces
East Indies & China Seas.

His Excellency.
Peter Parker
U. S. Commissioner to China.
Macao.

True Copy.
Jno. Reynolds.

Despatch no. 1 – Exhibit C.3

13 Jany. 1857.

(Copy.)

Legation of the United States.

Macao. 26th Decr. 1856.

Sir.

I have the honor to herein receipt on the 24th inst. of your note of the 19th inst. & in reply have to state, that in anticipation of resuming correspondence with the Imperial Commissioner upon sundry matters in abeyance – & among them the case of the "Lorcha" in October last, I twice availed myself of an opportunity when on board the Flag Ship, to speak with you upon the subject & the course I proposed to pursue, which I understood to meet your cordial approval. And my despatch to the Imperial Commissioner has been shaped accordingly.

I have not yet received an answer to that despatch, but whatever may be the spirit of His Excellency's reply. – I will not request any action on your part inconsistent with the terms of your correspondence, or that shall require special instructions from our

Commodore James Armstrong.

Commander in Chief of the U.S. Naval Forces in the East India & China Seas. –

Flag Ship. "San Jacinto."

Whampoa

our Government. neither the adoption of any measures that your judgment shall not approve.

I have the honor to remain.

Very Respectfully.

Your Obed. Serv.t

Peter Parker

Despatch No. 1 – Exhibit C. H.

13 Jany. 1857.

Copy.

Legation of the United States.
Macao. 29th Dec.r 1856.

Sir.

I learn incidentally that the Flag Ship arrived at Hong Kong on the 25th inst. It is reported that you contemplate visiting Manila at an early date. Under the apprehension that there may be foundation for the report, I hasten most respectfully & earnestly to implore you in behalf of the public interests now in jeopardy at this port, that as you regard the safety of citizens of the United States as respects life & property, you will not leave this vicinity with the only Steam Vessel of war of the United States in these waters, till we arrive at a more secure state of affairs than at present exists. The Governor of Macao has this day waited on me & from information in His Excellency's possession, it appears the tranquility of Macao is very uncertain, & how soon foreigners, here & elsewhere without distinction may be "driven into the Sea" – that is "driven on board vessels" is unknown. His Excellency addressed

Commodore James Armstrong
Commander in Chief of the U. S. Naval forces
in the East Indies & China Seas.
Flag Ship "San Jacinto."
Hong Kong.

addressed the Imperial Commissioner yesterday representing the unjustifiable course being pursued by Chinese Authorities in the vicinity of Macao to disturb tranquility.- The French Legation this day addresses the Imperial Commissioner on the same subject. It may become my duty to do so also, but I have little confidence of any argument or reasons however cogent, availing to divert the Vice-Roy from any system of annoyance to all foreigners which he may please to adopt. I write briefly, (lest I should lose the opportunity of sending by the "Fee Ma") but most earnestly, I trust that if it be but for one week, you will postpone your departure, till we are able to learn what is to be the immediate policy of the Chinese towards neutrals & friends.-

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Very Respectfully

Your Obed.t Serv.t

Peter Parker

Despatch No 1 Exhibit C. C.

13 January 1857.

(Copy.)

U. S. Flag Ship "San Jacinto"
Hong Kong. 31st Dec.r 1856.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communications of the 26th & 29th instants, with their enclosures.

I should have written to you ere this, but have been in the expectation of running over to Macao, in a few days, which I shall do as soon as the Portsmouth sails for the North.

We have considerable work to do to get our own ship ready for sea, which will take some fifteen or twenty days to complete.

I presume you have retained a copy of the Imperial Commissioner's reply to my communication of the 12th inst. - Nothing new in this quarter - all appears to be quiet. The people appear to apprehend trouble from the presence of a great number of Chinese collected at this place. For myself I do not think

His Excellency
Peter Parker
U. S. Commissioner to China
Macao.

think that any rising or outbreak will occur at this port. —

Very Respectfully
Your Obed. Serv.t &c —

Signed. Jas Armstrong. —
Comdg. U.S. Naval forces
East India & China Seas. —

True Copy.
Thos J. Reynolds.

Despatch 1. Exhibit C 6

13 January 1857.

(Copy.)

U. S. Flag. Ship "San Jacinto"
Hong Kong 7th January 1857.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of a communication to the Imperial Commissioner, in relation to the capture of the "Thistle" & murder of her entire crew, by a band of assassins put on board at Canton, as passengers.

I have waited upon the French Admiral, & have allowed him to take a copy of my protest, in order to shape that of the French to the same point. I think that I am bound to make it in the name of, & for the sake of humanity. I should be glad to have your opinion & views on this subject.

I send enclosed to Mr Williams the original for translation, & shall request him not to forward the despatch, until I have heard from Admiral Guerin, as I should like both protests to be sent to the Imperial Commissioner by the same conveyance

I am, Sir,
Very Respectfully
Your Obed. Servt
(Signed.) Jas Armstrong.
Comdg U. S. Naval forces
East India & China Seas.

His Excellency.
Peter Parker
U. S. Commissioner to China
Macao

True copy.
Wm Reynolds

(Copy.)

U. S. Flag Ship "San Jacinto."
Hong Kong 7th Jany. 1856.

Sir.

In the existing difficulties between the English & the Chinese, as Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of a Neutral power, I have been careful, as your Excellency is aware, to observe upon all occasions the duties of Neutrality; & in no way to mingle in the legitimate hostilities between the belligerent parties. But such respect can be paid only to those Nations who observe the rules of honorable warfare. The circumstances attending the capture of the "Thistle" a mail Steamer under the British flag are in violation of all those rules.

It is reported that this vessel being taken by stratagem had all her crew murdered & mutilated.

Such warfare as this is not a contest with a single Nation, but a barbarious outrage upon the common rights of humanity, & makes those guilty of it pirates & assassins, whose

His Excellency Yeh,
Imperial Commissioner
&c &c &c
Canton.

whose destruction is the interest and the duty of every Civilized Power. Civilized Nations do not make war upon un-offending Citizens, or murder those who have fallen into their hands. It is therefore my duty to make an earnest protest against such an act as this. It will give me great pleasure to know that it does not receive the sanction of Your Excellency's Authority.

I am

Very Respectfully

(L.S.)

(Signed.) Jas Armstrong.
Commander in Chief of the
U.S. Naval Forces in the East Indies
& China Seas.

True Copy.
(Signed.) A Vanden Heuvel
Commodores Secy.

True Copy.
Thos. Reynolds.

Despatch No 1. Exhibit C.7.
13 Jan 7. 1857.

(Copy.)

Legation of the United States.
Macao. 8th January 1857.

Sir,

I have the honor to be in receipt of your Despatch this enclosure of yesterday's date, & in reply beg to state, when in 1849. the lamented Admiral, then governor of Macao. was assassinated in open day by a band of Chinese, either at the instigation or by the connivance of the Imperial Government, the Representatives of England. France & the United States in China, Sir John Francis Davis, Baron Forth Rhon & J. W. Davis simultaneously, in behalf of their respective governments, deemed it their duty to protest & remonstrate against the barbarous & savage deed. And recently the French & American Legations have addressed the Imperial Commissioner Yëe protesting against a similar outrage upon humanity, the Treaties, & the laws of Nations, by offering pecuniary and other inducements to Chinese to assassinate foreigners, who may come within their power. I have (on the 9th ultimo) solemnly protested "this measure

to

Commodore James Armstrong,
Commander in Chief: U.S. Naval Forces
in the East Indies & China Seas.
&c &c &c
Hong Kong.

so repugnant to Civilized Nations", holding "His Excellency responsible for all its consequences", among which, unquestionably, the savage murder, by strategy, of eleven Europeans, Officers, men & passengers, of the ill-fated postal Steamer "Thistle" on the 30th ult. is to be reckoned. If in view of the protests already on record, it shall appear expedient, I am prepared to renew my remonstrance against the barbarous principle, & against the tragedy on board the British Steamer "Thistle", in particular. With this statement of precedent, & this announcement of what I have done & am ready to perform, should you still feel under obligation, alone, or in conjunction with His Excellency the French Admiral, in the name & for the sake of humanity, to protest also, the effect may be salutary upon the mind of the Imperial Commissioner, for the Naval Authorities of the Treaty Powers likewise to protest, as shewing how strong & general is the detestation & indignation inspired by his barbarity, & the possible consequence he is bringing upon his Government & upon his own person. I am informed by a respectable Chinese, that it is generally understood by his Countrymen, that the bloody deed had been sanctioned by His Excellency Yeh. That there was collusion between a Chinese

interested in the Charter of the "Thistle" & the officers & soldiers who executed the deed, & that £ 7000. reward has been paid, & several official buttons & rank have been distributed among them.

I remain,

Sir,

Very Respectfully

Your Obed.t Serv.t

Peter Parker

Despatch No. 1 - Exhibit D.
13 January 1857.

(Copy)

U. S. Consulate
Foo Chow - 28th Dec: 1856.

Sir.

I am without any favor from you since the receipt of yours of the 3rd of Nov: There is nothing of interest here, all remains quiet. A new Prefect took the seals of office a few days since, & made me a visit yesterday. He is a Canton man, but seems well disposed. Said he was sorry there were troubles below & hoped they would soon be settled. I like his appearance much better than I did the late Prefect, but he is nothing like as talented. I hope we shall get along well with him.

On the 18th inst. I called on Messrs. Jardine Matheson & Co. to pay the duties to the Chinese Superintendent of Customs, due on the "Kingfisher". They informed me that it should be done, & I am expecting daily to be notified that they have paid them.

I have the honor to remain
With great respect
Your Obed. Servt.
(Signed) Caleb Jones
U. S. Consul

His Excellency
Peter Parker,
U. S. Commissioner
&c &c &c to China
Hong Kong.

True Copy.
Jno. Reynolds.



Despatch 1. Exhibit C.
With Dr. Parker's No. 4 of 13 Jan. 1857.

Yeh, Governor General of the Two Kwang Provinces, member of the Cabinet & Baron of the Empire, hereby proclaims for general information.

It is well known that one quality much prized among those who enter the army is union of purpose, & this firm purpose may in fact be regarded as the advantage of soldiery. When once our multitudes of Spearmen assemble, the dread of them terrifies the whole region. The kindness & profound perspicacity of our Emperor has exerted its transforming effects even to other lands, so that the rude tribes on the Southern & Northern borders have been impressed with dread & respect. But there are the contumacious English barbarians, who are akin to dogs & hogs & like wolves & jackals in disposition who make no distinction in the human relations & are destitute of propriety or manners, who lust greatly after women, & even have promiscuous & incestuous intercourse, men & women making assignations by the banks of streams, or defiling each other in highways & byeways, who act as they list, have the tempers of wild beats, & go here & there in wild recklessness, regardless of human rights or order.

These are they who have presumed like flocks of ravens issuing from out their coverts, to cast contemptuous looks on celestial

and

Despatch 1. Exhibit C.
With Dr. Parker's No. 4 of 13 Jan 7. 1857.

Yeh, Governor General of the Two Kwang Provinces, member of the Cabinet & Baron of the Empire, hereby proclaims for general information.

It is well known that one quality much prized among those who enter the army is union of purpose, & this firm purpose may in fact be regarded as the advantage of soldiery. When once our multitudes of Spearmen assemble, the dread of them terrifies the whole region. The kindness & profound perspicacity of our Emperor has exerted its transforming effects even to other lands, so that the rude tribes on the Southern & Northern borders have been impressed with dread & respect. But there are the contumacious English barbarians, who are akin to dogs & hogs & like wolves & jackals in disposition & who make no distinction in the human relations & are destitute of propriety or manners, who lust greatly after women, & even have promiscuous & incestuous intercourse, men & women making assignations by the banks of streams, or defiling each other in highways & byeways, who act as they list, have the tempers of wild beats, & go here & there in wild recklessness, regardless of human rights or order.

These are they who have presumed like flocks of ravens issuing from out their coverts, to cast contemptuous looks on celestial

awe.

awe inspiring dignity, & seeing that our troops were unprepared, suddenly have taken possession of our forts, & following the bent of their lawless wickedness, have burned the Shops & dwellings of our people. Good men are indignant, heaven & earth can no longer endure them; & well will it be for your people if you unite in patriotic purpose & with vigorous arm exterminate them altogether. Let soldiers & gentry exhibit their loyalty, & with the braves known to be in every place, swear, as they exhibit a force & union like the driving tempest, that they will revenge the honor of their country. Let full obedience be given to His Majesty's rescript, and, with firm purpose & stout arm, sweep them off without remainder, burning their lairs, & exterminating their whole kith & kin.

Then the memorial of your merit will be seen in the palace, while the state stands secure in the greatness of its people & in the golden days of Shun, & the elements genially combine to produce plenty through the good rule universal in the land as was seen in the halcyon days of Yao.

The other nations of the west must all reverently obey our Heavenly dynasty, according to their laws & their administrators,

for

for they will be annexed in the same crimes (as the English) if they venture to copy their conduct.

Those native traitors who are serving these several tribes by aiding their purposes must be strictly watched after & judged, the worst of them by the extermination of all their kindred, the lesser by the destruction of their own families. Those who are employed as servants by any of the foreigners are allowed twenty days to return to their own patrimonies there to pursue their several occupations. If they linger along in the hope of gain, they will be treated & punished as traitors.
Each one must tremblingly obey these orders without opposition.

Yee Proclamation
comes in here

Despatch 4. Exhibit 7.
13 Jany. 1857.

A united manifesto of the inhabitants of twelve streets outside of Tai-ping Gate in the suburbs of Canton hereby honestly declare their sentiments for general information. to which they humbly request the candid attention of gentlemen of all nations.

Our Shops & houses were situated near the Foreign Factories, with whose inmates we have carried on trade for over two centuries, & throughout the whole time in mutual harmony & advantage. At the beginning of the present affair with the English, they issued a general intimation, that if there were actual hostilities, it did not concern & would not interfere with us living in these streets, which declaration we firmly believed, & quietly went on with our business as usual. Unexpectedly about the 1st of Novr they destroyed all the Shops in the streets near the Factories, on which occasion we lost our property in moving away & were put to more distress, than we can well describe. Then the English soldiers kept a very strict guard thereabouts so that no vagrants could lurk & spy the place. & this also made it impossible for the Shop-men to return to their shops to take care of them.

How surprising was it then on the night of the 14th Decr while the English troops were guarding the place, to see a furious fire break out in Shih-san hong. We supposed

then

they could put it out, being skilled in all things requiring strength & bravery, but they could not do so, & thus more than a thousand shops belonging to us were destroyed. When we sent fire-engines from each street to put out the fire, they drove away this assistance, killing several men & wounding over twenty more. Alas, how distressing to see many thousands of human beings so suddenly turned out of their homes, widows & orphans deprived of their support, & all at once thrown upon the world. The previous destruction of the Shops & hongs near the Yü-laou & Tsung-hai gates by fire is now increased by this afflictive calamity; indeed how can we bear these outrageous wrongs! To whom shall we complain of these things? We can, however, but express the honest feelings of our hearts and humbly hope that the Consuls & merchants will, when they see this, give it a fair examination & do something to repair our injuries & grievances. Let all interested in the matter carefully peruse this United declaration of all the dwellers in their streets.

Winter of 1856.

True Copy of translation
Thos. Reynolds.

Despatch 1 - Exhibit G!
13 Jan'y. 1857.

(Copy)

Boston 24th June 1856

Honorable Peter Parker
U. S. Commissioner
to China &c &c
Canton

Dear Sir,

Begging reference to previous conversations & correspondence with you in reference to the Coolie trade between China & the Brazils, we now wish to advise you that in view of information derived from you & our Mr. Mugford, we some time since abandoned all participation in the Coolie business. Our Agent Mr. Mugford soon as your proclamation was issued forwarded to the Brazilian Government through Messrs Baird, Le Coeq & Co of Rio a copy thereof & stated to said Government that in consequence of the issuing of this public document by the U. S. Commissioner we should feel compelled to abandon the trade & should send forward no more Coolies under the Contract made by us. The Brazilian Government are not satisfied with your proclamation and demand more evidence - as our Agent Mr. Mugford will probably be absent on a visit to Manilla on the arrival of the present Mail, we take the liberty of enclosing copy of a letter just received from

Mr.

Mr Collings who represents the House of Baird & Cocq & Co in London & through whom this contract was made with the Brazilian Minister on the part of his Government - You will see first what is wanted to satisfy them, will you do us the special favor, so far as lies in your power to supply the want; the documents if in Chinese had better be translated & both original & translation sent to us. The Certificate of Consul if no Brazilian is there, had better be that of English or Spanish - tho' it will be wise to adhere as closely to the requirement of the letter as you possibly can, - any expense in procuring these documents, translations, Consuls fees &c &c we will most cheerfully pay & you will name the Amount to Mr Mufford & he will reimburse you.

Trusting you may find it convenient to furnish us with such documents as the Brazilian Government call for - we are

Dear Sir

Very Respectfully Yours

Your friends &c &c.

(Signed.) Sampson & Tappan

P S

The call of the Brazilian Government is in part at least for the documents you mention in your Proclamation & you can doubtless supply these more easily than any other persons.

they

they are all important to us.

Yours

I. & T.

(Copy.)

London. 10th June 1856.

Messrs Sampson & Tappan

Boston

Dear Sirs,

I am in due receipt of your favor of the 19th ulto. & now beg to inform you that the Brazilian Government do not seem inclined to remain satisfied with the Copy of the Proclamation issued by Mr. Parker. Herewith copies of the Correspondence between the Minister of the Empire at Rio de Janeiro & Board of Trade &c. The letter informs me that the following documents must be sent them as speedily as possible. viz.

1. Certified Copy of the Imperial Chinese Proclamation against the Coolie trade. to be duly legalized by the Brazilian Consul or his representative in default of either authenticated Copies by two resident Brazilian Merchants, or in default of these by two Native Merchants,

with

with signatures in either case, duly recognized and certified to by its customary Local Authorities

2nd — Certified copy of the instructions sent by the U.S. Government to their Commissioner in China with Brazilian Consular Seal of Office

The sooner the question is settled the better & you will oblige me by giving immediate and prompt attention thereto.

I would also suggest transmission to Rio of certificates, also legalized by Brazilian Consul, to prove that the necessary vessels were prepared & sent out by you for execution of contract. —

I remain, Dear Sirs,

Your Obed't Serv't

(Signed.) M. S. Collings

true copies

J. J. Reynolds

Dispatch 8 - Exhibit # 2

13 January 1857

(Copy.)

Legation of the United States
Shanghae 9th Sept. 1856

Messrs Sampson & Tappan
Boston.

Dear Sirs.

I am in receipt of Your favor of the 24th June 1856. enclosing a copy of a letter received from Mr Collings who represents the house of Baird Le Cocq & Co in London through whom your contract to import 2000 Coolies in to Brazil was made with the Brazilian Minister on the part of his Government. requesting a certified copy of the instructions of the United States under which I acted in issuing my notification of the 8th of January last. & the original & translations of the Proclamation alluded to in that paper.

I have to inform you that compliance with the former part of the request is impossible. as my instructions were received in person & not in writing. In a letter of instruction dated Washington 27th Sept. 1855 the Honorable Secretary of State observed.

"Many topics not alluded to in these instructions have been considered in our several conversations,

and

and I have expressed to you the views of this Government upon them". The topic of the "Chinese Coolie trade" was one of these. The circumstances under which I learned the views of the Government upon the subject I will briefly state. A letter from your Mr Sampson dated 3rd Sept. 1855 informed me that he, or your firm, might have occasion to address me in my official capacity on the subject of the Coolie trade after my return to China. That I might know how my Government would have me act in such an event. I embraced an early opportunity of presenting the subject to the Secretary of State. It was at the Department of State & Govr Marcy, Mr Cushing the Attorney General & Mr R. M. Mc Lane being present this subject was broached. I was struck with the warmth of feeling expressed upon the subject, which was considered one degree worse than the Slave trade: & I was told by the Secretary of State, that under given circumstances it would be my duty publicly to discountenance it.

Before reaching China I learned the particulars of the awfull tragedy on board the

Coolie

Coolie Ship "Waverly" ~~more revolting than~~
the horrors of the "Black Hole" Calcutta. On my
arrival I deemed it my duty, under my instructions,
to look into the subject, little aware that it was
of so serious a character as I found it. & in the
only way practicable, to discountenance the
traffic so far as the U. S. flag is concerned. My
action upon the occasion was immediately
transmitted to Washington. & if I had misunder-
stood or misinterpreted the views of Government,
ample time has elapsed for my error to have
been pointed out, which has not been done.

In addressing the Secretary of State upon
the subject. Despatch No. 1. dated 14th January 1856.
I had occasion to remark "When I came to
the investigation of this traffic, I had no
adequate conception of its enormity. & the
strong terms in which I have described it are
fully sustained by official documents, & the
most reliable testimony (vide Correspondence
upon the subject of Emigration from China, pre-
sented by command of Her Majesty to the
House of Commons 1853. & House of Lords 1854)
These papers I have not at hand, in them,
was contained so far as my memory now
serves me, the Proclamation particularly

referred

referred to in my notification was translated by Mr Morrison. Interpreter to H. B. M. Consulate Amoy. which I think was included in the papers of Dr Winchester upon the traffic, and embraced in the above correspondence. On my return to the South of China I will endeavor to obtain not only the translation, but if practicable, a copy of the original Chinese from the British Consulate at Amoy. In the mean time I beg to enclose a translation of an Edict by the Governor of Canton, the original Chinese is mislaid, or at the South, which also I will attend to on my return thither.

The Mail for this Month has already departed, but as a Steamer is about leaving for Hong Kong, I write this briefly with the hope it may reach that place in time for the Mail for Europe of the 15th inst.

I remain, Dear Sirs,

Very truly

Your friend & Servant

Peter Parker

P.S. A translation of a paper extensively circulated at Canton is also enclosed.—

Despatch 1. Exhibit G.3.

13 Jan.y. 1857.

Proclamation of His Excellency Yih Kien. the Governor of Canton.

A stringent prohibition of kidnapping men holding them for a ransom, & of enticing men to go to foreign countries, in order to tranquilize the people.

Whereas there are those who seize & kidnap young boys & girls, & conceal them in dark secluded recesses to extort a ransom & for the sake of gain seduce persons to go to foreign countries, never to return. such intriguing traitors, bent exclusively on gain, regardless of the inhuman injuries they inflict on others in utter contempt of the Law. On examining & reading over the old records I am so exasperated that the hair upon my head stands erect.

Upon examination, I find that these outrages are for the most part perpetrated by the rascals of Shun teh, Tung Kwan, & Heang-shan, who generally go out of the jurisdiction to which they belong, to diffuse their venom; those whom they kidnap, they closely conceal in caverns among the hills; & if destitute of money put them to death. Among them there are some who escape, but they are unable to give their names, surnames & residence of the kidnappers. As to those who are enticed to go to foreign countries, they are in the first instance tempted by the hope of gain,

Inct

but in the end they are put under restraint like buffaloes & horses, till death give them repose.

Of these devices, the ignorant people are not aware & multitudes are involved in calamity.—

Now the monstrous spirits of Canton have just been suppressed, it is necessary that every thing should be properly attended to as respects the future.

I, the Governor, protect the people as my children & hate wicked men as I do my enemies, therefore, besides issuing my orders to the Prefects & magistrates within my jurisdiction, secretly to employ guides & seach & find them out & then examine & punish them, I also issue this special proclamation, commanding both the Militia & people of this province that whenever it happen that you meet with vagabonds from other places, of suspicious aspect, from three to five in a group, with sharp swords about their persons, immediately give notice of the fact, & with united strength arrest them; I, the Governor after trial & conviction, will reward you liberally according to the number arrested, & will take the vagabonds themselves & punish them to the utmost extent of the law, as a warning to others & thus exterminate this class of rascals so injurious to the people. Let each tremblingly obey. No opposition. Special Edict.

Sent to Dr. Parker at Macao from Canton Kien fung 6th year 3d moon 10th day. (14th April 1856.)

Faithful Translation
T. W. C. Liang.

Despatch 1. Exhibit G 4
13 Jan 7. 1867.

An argument respecting kidnapping & selling pigs to foreign vessels.

Among the most distressing things for a man is to leave his friends (as in pursuit of a livelihood) & to die away from them: still [in such a case] if he becomes diseased & sick, & medicines are unavailing to cure his ailments, he can calmly close his eyes in death, his relatives sorrowing as they do for his loss will yet in time lay aside their mourning. But what is ten thousand times more distressing than this, & what I have myself personally heard & seen, is being kidnapped & sold on board foreign ships it is a thing that excites the bitterest hatred & grief.

Recently a set of reckless villains have devised a cunning scheme, going around from hamlet to village, in cities & fairs, where they kidnap silly people & sell them on board foreign vessels, in which they are taken to foreign regions there to toil for ever in bitter service. This is vulgarly called selling pigs, & in truth it differs in nothing from the sale of swine

These miscreants go prowling about everywhere, & when they see a poor & sony man, they embrace the occasion to beguile & deceive him as the circumstances of the case suggest. they will tell him (for instance) ' It is very distressing to see you live so beggarly, & wretched, & I have

a

a way to relieve you which I can recommend; there are foreign ships about going to Australia, to Fish Chow, to Shang Hae, or elsewhere, where there is great demand for workmens. You need be at no expense for passage or outfit, & if there is any profit, they promise to divide it with you. The poor man, hearing these crafty & delusive words, invariably falls in with the proposition, & is urged & cajoled to go at once on board to see the Captain. He knows not that once there, (for this man is in league with the foreigner) that he will be straightway confined in the ships hold, & the hatches locked on him. Then, though he had wings he could not escape; he can only uselessly regret his fate. While his body is thus confined in the hold of the ship, like a man in a dark, hellish dungeon, his thoughts recur to his father & mother, whose toilsome care in nurturing him, has, as it were, incontinently been thrown into the deep. The love & kindness between husband & wife is thus vilely sundered for no purpose, and children, relatives & friends can no more be seen in this life.

If a man falls sick on board, & his malady is not cured in three or five days, he is tied up with a hempen rope & cast into the river, or on the beach. While I was passing once in a boat I saw several men thus tied up, who were imploring the gods to deliver them & save

their

their lives. Really I could not bear to hear them, & wished to go to their rescue, but my boatmen strongly urged me not to do so, alledging that the foreigners had pistols in their hands & I should only get injured if I tried.

Those who live to reach the foreign country, there toil in bitter service. If cold, they have only a shirt to cover them; if hungry, only vile rice for food; if thirsty only water from the hills to drink; & at night they sleep in forests & thickets. Every day they are hurried to carry earth or plough the soil, or made to transport stones, or dig the mines without cessation. If one happens to idly rest, the foreigner cudgels him at his pleasure, & thus he drags out a toilsome existence seeking for death in vain. Moreover there are dreadful wild beasts & venemous serpents which pursue men, & awfully furious storms of rain, all of which grievously injure & weaken the body. How sad! how distressing to endure all these cruel calamities, in consequence of the deception of one hour!

Now any man who has received a body from his progenitors, & was born in civilized & affluent China can, if he be diligent & thrifty, & do not fail in his duty, support himself & live on the fruits of his labor. Why should he be so foolish as to be cajoled by rascals, & sold

into

into foreign parts, separated from his own flesh & blood while alive, & then become a vagabond devil in unknown regions when he is dead?

I have a nephew who has been to those countries where he saw more than twenty thousand Chinese who had been thus deceived, but he contrived to escape, after many adventures, & has told all this to me.

I, on my part, presume to let others know it, in hopes that benevolent & kind gentlemen will circulate this information in villages, so that everybody may be aware of these schemes, & not fall into the traps. Perhaps they will petition the Authorities to rigorously punish such fellows that others be warned from these bad practices & the lives of our countrymen be saved. This is what I earnestly hope.—

As to those truculent villains who act so cruelly, they no longer retain any trace of heavenly rectitude, nor even of human feeling. Even if they escape punishment in this world, they certainly will suffer the destruction of hades. Let them therefore straightway reform their conduct, nor imagine there is no retribution for such doings.

I am aware that I am not an elegant writer, but I hope the readers of this will not cast it away because of its rude style.—

A respectful address to all who love virtue.

To be posted everywhere for people to see it. Have respect for printed paper (i.e. do not tear it down) - The blocks are kept in a shop in Tsiáng kàn St in Canton, where kind persons can get as many copies struck off as they wish.

True Translation

S. Wells Williams
Sec. & Interpreter to U. S. Legation

Dispatch 1. Exhibit 4 &
13 January 1857.

Legation of the United States
Macao 13th January 1857.

Messrs Sampson & Tappan
Boston.

Dear Sirs

I have the honor herewith to transmit you a certified copy of the Edict of the Imperial Authorities of Fuh Chow with a translation by Dr Williams. also certified extracts from Correspondence upon the subject of emigration from China. &c &c

We are in the midst of an unprecedented state of affairs in China seriously affecting not only Commerce, but the safety of the lives & property of all foreigners. How far the traffic in Coolies has contributed to the present hostile feelings of the Chinese people towards foreigners it is not easy to determine. This Mail will convey to you the sad end of Captain Diaz. a Spanish gentleman, who has been engaged in this trade. The French ship. 'Port de Bordeaux' which recently cleared from this port for the Havanna with Chinese Coolies. returned last evening on fire. set to her by the Coolies. By aid of the Russian Corvette, 'Olivoutza' the fire was extinguished and the vessel saved

The

The circumstances under which I write, must be my apology for brevity, & preclude comment upon the documents enclosed.

I remain

Dear Sir

Very Respectfully

Your Obed.t Serv.t

Peter Parker

"Tsái, acting as magistrate in the district of Min. and
"filling the duties of sub-prefect, raised ten steps & recorded ten
"times, hereby issues orders for the guidance of people.

"On the 23rd of May 1855, I received orders from
"Pan, the prefect of Foh Chow, who had himself on the
"12th of May got them from all the intendants of circuit,
"conveying the directions of His Excellency Wáng, the
"governor general of these provinces, dated April 1st
"1855, to the following effect:-

"A communication has been received from Lé,
"the sub-prefect at Amoy to the following purport:

"On the third of March I heard that some
"Portuguese from Macao had been buying & carrying
"off young girls from Nangpo & that region, whom
"they intended to take to foreign countries to sell,
"but had stopped in at Amoy from stress of weather.
"I straightway informed the English officials of the
"circumstance that they might attend to it, & presently
"the consul with the Interpreter Sinclair came to my office,
"& said that the traffic in young girls was not a legitimate
"one, & that their country prohibited it. I then arrested
"these traders that they might be punished according
"to their own laws, & furthermore dispatched some
"of my employés, who brought the girls forty-four
"in number. I found that they were all from five
"& six years up to thirteen years of age, every one of
"them sallow, half starved, & hardly looking like
"human beings. Most of them were dangerously

Jack

"sick, & were brought along in baskets. Since the day
"the native villains who seized them to sell them to the
"foreigners had brought them in, they could hardly
"describe the misery & sufferings they had undergone.
"As soon as they went on board ship they had been
"shut up in the hold, & had received one bowl of cold
"boiled rice each day, for which the whole of them
"scrambled & struggled to get it. Thus there were
"those among them who were dying of cold & hunger,
"& those who were dead, for their captors never
"troubled themselves to look after them or inquire
"into their state, since the profits were still very
"great if only two or three out of ten lived, & therefore
"they were regarded as just so many dogs or pigs.
"Such was the perverse conduct & insane disregard
"of suffering here exhibited!

"I could not longer endure the sight from
"very horror, & hired a house on the instant, engaged
"several nurses, procured clothes & shoes for them,
"prepared medicines & nutritious food, & did every-
"thing for them which seemed necessary. After seven
"days had passed, during which one died, they began to
"recover themselves & were able to speak out & answer
"the questions put to them, to tell their infantile
"names, whether their fathers or mothers were alive
"or dead, the district where their clans dwelt & the
"names of their relations, & what village they came
"from, though some of them were so very young

that

"that they knew nothing & could give no answers. On
"asking why they had come to Annoy they all replied they
"had been sold on account of poverty. Some of them
"wore fine garments & lined with silk, whose manners
"indicated that they were not of very poor families;
"but when asked to give the true facts of their cases,
"they all hung down their heads weeping & answered
"never a word.

"Taking all these points into consideration,
"reflecting that most of these children had been sold
"from poverty, & that those who had been carried off
"by deception had been frightened by their villainous
"captors into silence, for which there was now no
"help, & they were themselves unhappily too young
"to take any steps to prosecute their own case, I
"carefully examined the law respecting seizing
"young children & selling them, & it requires that
"they be returned to their parents. But these have
"no homes to return to, & it is illegal for officers to sell
"them. If they are distributed among the families of
"the rich gentry to be reared, or are made over to
"poor persons to be adopted, still the Customs of
"Annoy are bad & vicious: for the rich do not bring
"up slaves, & these unfortunates would never be given
"in marriage, but would by & by be sold again,
"& gradually become abandoned outcasts; while the poor
"very commonly rear girls in their families, to be
"come wives to their sons, or to sell them afterwards

for

"for a profit. Such are the base customs of this region,
"there is no use in fretting about them.

"Revolving the matter over in my mind
"carefully, the only way left to dispose of them was
"to inquire among all the Civil & military officers
"here, who were trustworthy, & distribute the children
"to be brought up among those who were reliable
"according to the size of their families. I consulted
"immediately with my fellow-Officers here upon the
"matter, & we deemed this to be the best course of action.
"We arranged the whole company into nineteen
"separate places, one or two, four or six children
"together, assorting the whole forty-three according
"to their ages, their age & stature, & their general
"condition of health. When each lot had been
"placed by itself, the names & numbers of the children
"were written on ballots, which were rolled up
"into balls. Each lot fell to him who drew it,
"no one choosing by sight, but just as the chance
"appointed the Children among the families, no
"drawer being allowed to sell them again to
"others. Then the name & surname of each girl, the
"names of her parents, (whether they were alive or
"dead) & particulars of her parentage, & the place where
"each fell by lot to be brought up, were all inscribed
"in a book to be kept in my office ready for
"reference.

"All these particulars were then written

out

"out in full, with the age & infantile name of each
"girl stated. & were sent to the place of her nativity,
"there to be published for general information. Those
"persons who have received money for these children
"are not to be allowed to come & reclaim them,
"but those from whom they were abducted &
"carried off for sale, who are known by all to
"have lost them, are allowed a full year to
"come to the office of the sub. prefect at Amoy &
"state their cases. The record will then be examined
"to see where the child was allotted, & then they
"must first go there to recognize each other, after
"which they will be allowed to take them away
"from the officers residence. Thus every party con-
"cerned in it being of respectable character &
"these regulations made about claiming them, no
"difficulties will meet those who wish to recover
"the Children. After the lapse of a year, let the
"remaining ones who have grown old enough
"be contracted in marriage. By this plan, each
"one of these girls will have a sure dependance
"& home, & are not likely to become outcasts
"without any protectors."

" The particulars respecting the inquiry into
" the seizure of these forty three children & the means
" adopted for their support are herewith embodied in
"a plain statement as in duty bound. I now
"send them up for your examination.

This

"This coming before me, the Governor General,
"it appears from what is here stated that some
"Portugueze have gone to Ningpo & other places in
"Chekiang where they have purchased & carried
"off girls, more than forty in number, to take
"to foreign countries to sell on profit. This
"proceeding is in direct violation of the laws
"& statutes of the land, & must instantly be
"put a stop to in order to prevent native
"villains from abducting & selling people
"The particulars which have been clearly
"ascertained by the sub-prefect about the seizure
"of these ~~people~~ children, & their having no homes
"or support, are truly lamentable, & must
"excite the compassion of all who learn them.
"The said Officer requests orders upon his proceedings
"in distributing them among the civil & military
"officers of the place to be maintained, but that
"those who have got money by their sale be not
"allowed to come & reclaim them; & that those
"whom every body knows lost them, are
"to have one year in which to go themselves
"to Amoy, & make their representations at
"the sub-Prefects office; & if they & the Children
"recognise each other, are permitted to take
"them away, so that families may be re-
"united. While sending this reply to him al-
"lowing his arrangements, I have also informed

This

"His Excellency Baron Yeh, the Imperial Com-
"missioner & Governor General of the Two Kwang
"provinces (i.e. Kwang-tung and Kwang-hi)
"that he may proceed immediately, & also inform
"the officials of every foreign country at Canton,
"that they may enjoin on all the Consuls at
"Fuh Chow, Amoy, Shanghai & Ningpo, every
"one who has control over foreigners there,
"obedience thereto. Strict injunctions to stop this
"traffic.

"Henceforth it is not permitted stealthily to
"take away young girls to foreign countries to
"sell them therefor profit. Let these strict prohibitions
"be respected, & let the particulars of the case also be
"embodied in a proclamation & forwarded to the
"Intendant of Circuit at Ningpo & Shanhai for his
"direction. Let him issue notices & put up orders
"in all the thoroughfares & public places most stringently
"prohibiting this traffic. While, on the one hand, he
"sends out many copies of these orders to each dis-
"trict in his circuit, making known these prohibitions
"for general obedience, let him also seize every
"person found taking off young girls or trading
"in them, that they may be, on the other hand,
"on his request remanded for examination."—

While receiving these orders which are to
be attended to within the time, & prepared reports
made, let them also be implicitly observed; & at

the

the same time replies made out to transmit to the intendant of circuit. While he makes out immediately the proper commands to issue from his office, he will also furnish the two Commissioners of finance & justice, with the same that they may also act in accordance therewith, & enjoin them upon all persons connected with commerce & all who guard, that conformity may be had. Hasten, hasten!

I have also received from H. E. Wang, the Governor General of these provinces, the following reply:-

"Lê, the Sub Prefect at Amoy, has reported to "me the circumstances attending the request anent "examination of some foreigners for trading in "& carrying away from Ningpo young girls, "whom he had distributed around that they "might be supported, &c. &c. On receiving this let- "ters be transmitted to all the intendants throughout "the province of Fuh Kien for their observance, and "await also the reply of H. E. the Governor to "inclose with them."

I have also received from H. E. Lü, the Governor of Fuh Kien, a reply concerning foreigners buying up young girls in China to take them beyond the seas for sale:-

"The character of this traffic is de- "testable, & if it is carried on now at the single "Port of Ningpo it is to be feared that it is not

stopped

"stoppes at other ports. Let the several intendants
"therefore transmit directions to the civil & military
"officers at Fuh chau & Amoy that a careful watch
"be kept by all whose duty it is to guard the port,
"in respect to this traffic; & at the same time let
"similar instructions be forwarded to the proper
"officers in Kiang si & Chehkiang. The report of
"the said Subprefect respecting the seizure of the
"young girls, & his dividing them for the time among
"the Civil & Military Officers at Amoy to be provided
"for, sending notice to the native places of the
"Children, that their parents & relatives may go to
"Amoy to reclaim them, shows that the whole
"has been carefully managed: let it be thus ar-
"ranged. Await also the reply of H.E. the
"Governor General to be inclosed!-

These replies & the communication of the sub-prefect have all been received at the offices of the intendants. In addition to the proclamations issued, they find that the circumstances reported are as follows:-

"The case of the arrest of foreigners for
"buying & carrying away from Ningpo on sale
"forty-three young girls, whom he has temporarily
"distributed among the Civil & Military Officers at
"Amoy, to be provided for, informing the people
"in their native districts that their parents &
"relatives are allowed a year to repair to Amoy

"to reclaim the children, has been in all respects properly
"managed. But the conduct of these foreigners in buying
"young girls in China to carry beyond sea to sell for
"gain, just like so many dogs & pigs, is detestable
"in the extreme; while the native miscreants
"who get them by intimidation & carry them
"off for sale, acts still more in contempt of the
"laws. If such proceedings are carried on at Ningpo,
"who can be certain that even worse acts are not
"done at other ports & places? It is absolutely ne-
"cessary that such things be strictly prohibited
"lest such evil practices grow worse.

"Having therefore learned these particulars,
"in addition to informing their Excellencies, the
"two high provincial officers, that they may
"transmit prohibitory orders to the authorities
"of Kiang-Si, Chek-Kiang & Kwang-tung, we
"also transmit these orders to the guarding officer,
"which are to be forthwith made known as
"prohibitions. Let all those native villains
"who are engaged in seizing, abducting, and
"trafficking in young girls, be arrested and
"strictly examined. Implicitly obey these orders
"with all haste."

This order coming to the guarding officer, he
straightway dispatched it by a special messenger
to the two district magistrates at Tsih Chaou for
their compliance, with the following prohibitory

order:

Let orders be at once issued to all the police that they seize all Chinese rascals who are engaged in trading in or carrying off young girls for sale, that they may be severely punished. Let orders also be issued to all persons in charge of custom houses & passes that they accordingly keep a close lookout & seize offenders, so that this evil custom may be removed. Let this be implicitly obeyed with all haste!—

These orders & plans coming before me the district magistrate, besides issuing proper notice to all the subalterns for their guidance, ordering them to instruct the police to search & seize all offenders for punishment, let all foreign traders be examined who are engaged in getting young girls in China to take them beyond sea for sale, which is totally against the laws of the land. Let those native villains who terrify & deceive people to carry off young girls, an act still more opposed to the laws, be strictly prohibited, that such vicious practices no longer exist.

Wherefore these plain commands are issued that these prohibitions may be fully known by all you people, soldiers & others throughout the City of Tsih Chow. If any of your young daughters have been sold by native rascals to go abroad beyond sea, come to the offices of either Military or civil Magistrates & represent the case, that the offenders

may

may be seized & punished. If any one dares to threaten others & force them to sell fools or if any one takes money to buy them, as soon as he is brought up for examination, he shall be most severely questioned, & no leniency shown. Let each one of you tremblingly obey this mandate without sedition or hesitation

Hsien-fung. 5th year. 6th month. 20th day.
(August 2nd. 1855.)

True Translation
(Signed.) S Wells Williams.
Secretary of Legation & Interpreter to U. S. Legation

True copy.
Thos. J. Reynolds.

Despatch 1. Exhibit G 7.
13 Jan.y. 1857.

Extracts from Correspondence upon the subject of emigration from China — Presented to the House of Commons by command of Her Majesty 20th Augt. 1853. & House of Lords 1855. —

"all those who hold (unauthorized) intercourse with foreign nations, or stealthy communication with aboriginal tribes, who trade with them, borrow from them, or fraudulently deprive them of their property, thereby endanger the peace of the frontier; or those who steal away to reside with the aborigines, and incite or allure them to revolt, thereby occasioning trouble to the Country, shall be punished, the principals, including those who shall have crossed the frontier into foreign territory, or have taken out of the Country, men, arms, or sulphur, with death, the accessories with banishment to the army beyond the frontier." (Ib. p. 26 & 27. —)

Sworn testimony of Revd. William Chalmers Burns

"Q. Do you know of any placards that would identify this coolie emigration with the disturbances, and what was the substance of them! —

A. — Several months ago I read a government proclamation in reference to this subject to the effect

that

that persons described as "Kheh Shaou." or in the colloquial of the Hongs "Coolie Brokers", were leading away and selling poor people. The proclamation threatened such with severe punishment, & also added that local constables who knew of such persons & yet did not give information would be held equally guilty with them." (P.P. 45 & 46)

Appendix "B."

Proclamation issued by the inhabitants of the eighteen wards.

The Barbarians are ungovernable in the extreme & their only motive of action is desire for gain. We, the people of the eighteen wards (the town of Amoy), have now agreed that we will have no dispute with the barbarians, but will concert measures for the regulation of our conduct amongst ourselves. From this time, if any persons transact business with the Te-ki & Ho-ki Hongs (Tait & Co & Syme, Muir & Co) they shall be put to death, their property seized & their houses destroyed without mercy. None shall be permitted to establish firms for foreign trade. Any brokers who are caught

shall

shall not be carried before the Authorities, but shall be at once killed. Hereby we express the public indignation, & do not employ words of course. All are warned therefore to abstain from testing the truth of them. If Tait & Syme give up to the Authorities, that he may have justice dealt on him, the broker whom one day they carried away, it will then be permitted for them to do business again. - - (p. 72)

A true translation
(Signed) M. C. Morrison.

Marine Magistrate of Amoy's interview with Capt. Fishbourne. -

" The Marine Magistrate then begged, now that the British Government had ordered an investigation, that the Merchants might be strictly prohibited from carrying on any longer their traffic in Chinese Coolies, for he was convinced it would sooner or later cause serious disturbances and endanger life & property, when the support of the Chinese Mandarins would no longer have effect; these were apprehensions looming in the future, which he considered his duty at present distinctly to state for the future peace & welfare

of the community.

To the proposal whether a petty officer might not be appointed by the Chinese officials to inspect each emigrant Ship as she left, for the purpose of satisfying himself that no coolies were carried out of the country against their will, the Haifang (Marine Magistrate) smiled at the idea, & stated that there was a general prohibition in the code of laws against the emigration of Chinese subjects. He bitterly complained of the wickedness of these Coolie brokers, who were doubly culpable. (p. 78.)

Official Notice by Wang, Acting Sub-Prefect of Amoy.

Kidnappers (or brokers), who delude poor people to make a traffic of them, commit a serious breach of the law which prohibits it.

Strict orders have consequently been given to the police for the apprehension of these guilty persons, whom it is necessary to proceed against with all the rigour of the Law.

Such of the Constabulary as shall be cognizant of their wicked acts, & not denounce the offenders, shall alike be legally tried & punished with them.

Ye

ye all whom this concerns, make haste to reform & repent, & thereby avoid incurring the heavy penalties of the law. (1779 to 80)

True translation,

(Signed.) Chas. A. Sinclair,

Interpreter

(See page 11)

Extract from communication of Capt.n Fishbourne to Capt.n Massie.—

Hong Kong 21 Dec.r 1852.

"For some few months the public mind, what has been festering under the accumulated wrongs perpetrated by Savage Chinese Coolie brokers, with whom their employers were associated in the Chinese mind, to satisfy the inordinate demand for Coolies, was at last brought up to the point of revolt by the illegal interference of Mr. Syme to stay the course of justice undertaken by the Authorities at the instance of an indignant and outraged people." — (p. 87.)

Extract - Capt.n Fishbourne to Capt.n Massie.

Amoy 14 Dec.r 1852.

"I

"I then asked him if it were not possible for him to direct a minor Mandarin to visit the Coolie Sheds & ships, to ascertain if any were in confinement or being expatriated against their will; he said, certainly not, as to regulate would be to recognize the propriety of emigration, which was contrary to Chinese law, & asked that our Merchants should be prevented from encouraging more to emigrate.

He further said, that they were determined to put a stop to emigration, & would punish severely any coolie broker found enticing the people away. (p. 90.)

Extract from —

Petition of Lac Chinse. - (pp. 92 & 93)

"Petition of Lac Chinse, a Chinese woman, resident at Amoy, in the matter of her husband, carelessly implicated & murdered.

There is here a native of Canton, one Lee-Kwang-heng, who, originally a menial of the lowest class, has raised himself by his vile & selfish conduct to considerable wealth, & who avails himself of his riches & influence to an extent unparalleled. This man came to Amoy as a purchaser

of human beings on account of your honorable merchants the Hoke store (Messrs Lyme & Co.) with a view to shipping them to England for mercenary purposes" (p.p. 92 & 93.)

Dr. Bowring &c to the Earl of Malmesbury.

(Extract.) Hong Kong Jan 7. 10th 1858.

"I hear from good authority that Mr. Tait who is the largest shippers of Coolies from Amoy, & the Consul for several Nations, has erected Barracoons on the Chinese Continent at Swatow, near Namoa. & that he is collecting Coolies there, having come to an understanding with the local Mandarins to allow them one tael, 5.6. 9d., per head for every Coolie shipped.

I think it desirable that Her Majesty's Government should be informed of these infractions of Treaty obligations".—

1855.

Correspondence on Immigration from China - presented by Command of Her Majesty, to the House of Lords, 10th August 1855.

Extract from Memorial of Chincha Shipmasters to the Right Honorable the Lords of the Privy Council of Trade. - (p. 28.)

"All the American Shipmasters at the Chinchas, from the Northern as well as the Southern States, declared they never saw or heard of Slavery approaching that of the Middle islands of the Chinchas in misery. -

2

On so solemn an occasion we would not call in the assistance of national vanity to espunge a blot, but we feel certain that nothing but the kindly feelings cultivated between English & American Shipmasters prevented the latter from openly taunting us with engaging in a Slave Traffic the more abominable from being practised by deceiving an industrious people, who, when carried to our free Settlements, have proved invariably a peaceable, active, and improveable class." -

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Sullivan.—
(Extract.) Foreign Office 15th July 1854.

"Her Majesty's Government learn with deep regret that, by British Agency, & under the British flag, these Chinese laborers have been brought to the Chincha Islands, & placed in a state of Slavery more horrible than any yet recorded.—but this fact imposes an additional duty on Her Majesty's Government."—(p. 30.)

Sir J. E. Tennent to Lord Wodehouse.
(Extract.)— Whitehall 4th Augt. 1854.

"Mr. Lloyd, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, acquainted the Earl of Malmesbury, by despatch dated the 1st June 1852. that on arrival of this vessel, her passengers had been openly offered for sale at Arica, & that "the Captain & his Agent there had sold some twenty-five of the Chinese (who had been mostly sent into the interior) for 112 dollars each, & a promise on the part of the purchasers to pay the men

4 dollars monthly" and that "the Ship had sailed for Salay to dispose of the remainder."—

These unfortunate men Mr. Lloyd further states had been seduced from their own country under the idea that they were going to some British settlement under an engagement for five years."— (p. 31.)

The Maritime Prefect at Amoy to Vice. Consul Minchett

(Translation.)— Hien fung. 5th year. 1st moon. 16th day.

(4th March 1855).

The trade in human beings is a grave offence against the laws of China, & I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the forty four female Children, whom you were good enough to put under my charge on the 2nd inst., & who, you informed me, belonged to the neighborhood of Ningpo & Shanghae, & had been brought down from Ningpo in an English merchant vessel.

The crime in the present instance is aggravated by the objects of the traffic being young children, of whom it is not impossible

that

that some may have been kidnapped from their parents, hence the strict necessity for disallowing this kind of trade; & I feel it my duty to request the Honorable Consul to publish severe prohibitions against it, in order to extirpate this evil system.

Having provided food &c. &c. nurses for the female children so received, besides medical attendance for those that are sick, I have made a general report of the matter to each of the high authorities at Foochoo, & beg by official letter, to request you will strictly stop the trade complained of. — (p. 87)

(page 5.)

The Earl of Clarendon to Sir George Bonham.

(Extract.) Foreign Office. 24th Feby 1853

xxx. I cannot close this despatch without strongly expressing the disapprobation with which Her Majesty's Government view the conduct of Mr. Syme & other British subjects at Amoy with reference to the emigration of Chinese Coolies, as set forth in the minutes of the inquiry inclosed in Dr. Bowring's despatch. Those persons have brought

disgrace

disgrace on the British name, have endangered British interests in China.'—

(p. 83. / 1858.)

True Copy of Extracts.
Thos. J. Reynolds.

Rec'd 6. April. Mr. Dwight

Legation of the United States.

No 2. Macao 19th January 1857.

To His Excellency.

The Secretary of State of the United States.

Washington.

Sir.

I avail myself of the Mail Via Calcutta, about to be despatched, to inform you of one of the most flagrant violations of the recognized rules of justifiable warfare, of modern times, which has been recently committed by Chinese subjects resident in the Colony of Hong Kong, & as there is no doubt at the instigation of the Imperial Commissioner Yé.

On the morning of the 15th inst. the inhabitants of Hong Kong, & all on board merchant & Government vessels of different nations in that harbor, were thrown into a state of great consternation, & suffering, by the discovery that the bread, by a Chinese Baker, supplied to the public had been served out with arsenic! The panic and consternation then exhibited were great The Authorities, Civil, Military & Naval, the private Citizens, women & children, the troops in garrison, & Marine force afloat, all were more

or

or less involved in the common calamity. Passengers on board the P. & O Steamer just leaving the Port, & their friends from whom they were about to be separated, were also poisoned, & were compelled to separate in ignorance of the issue to those who left & to those who remained.

I learn from His Excellency, Sir John Bowring that every one of his family at Government House, partook of the poisoned bread. His Excellency has been a good deal shaken, but is able again to attend to public duties. A number of our own Citizens, including Mr Perry, United States Consul at Canton, & some of our Naval Officers, were also victimized. Captain N Rimsky Korsacoff & two of his officers of S. R. S. Corvette "Olivoutza", were rendered very ill. Sir John Bowring writes me - "I believe we owe our safety "(under God) to the fact that the poisoners "over-did their work so that the effects were "most immediate, a less quantity would have "remained working unperceived & might have led "to most fatal results." But for this providential circumstance the exhibition of death & mourning, in the Colony & afloat, on board vessels under many flags, not only English, but French, American, Russian, Portugnese & Spanish, had been too

afflictive to contemplate.

I have deemed it an imperative duty to protest against prison as a means of war, & still more against its indiscriminate administration to friends & foe, & to those who are entitled to immunity from the operations of war, innocent women & children, & all engaged in the ordinary civil pursuits of life. (Exhibit A.) In this protest I have employed strong language, but not stronger than the extraordinary occasion demands. Not that it will have any immediate avail, for I concur in the sentiment of Sir John in reference to His Excellency Yeh. "that rock is too hard to be moved by any consideration of pity, morality, or religion." & "that the man who patronizes murder, incendiarism & the vilest misdeeds, × × × × will consider any annoyance he causes a source of gratification & an encouragement to persevere. He is clearly utterly unmoved by the fear of consequences, having made up his mind to dare anything, however iniquitous, & to wait the result."

His Excellency's reply of the 9th inst. received on the 15th. to my protest of the 29th ult. (Exhibit B.) is courteous, & tolerably satisfactory, except the explanation or threat,

perhaps

perhaps both." "I think it is not altogether certain that these same shopmen from Heang-Shan may not again attempt something against them".- the English residents of Macao! But about the same time His Excellency was penning, or dictating that reply, information had probably reached his Ya-mun that the foreigners in charge of a floating medical establishment at Whampoa belonging (as it is alleged) to an American Citizen had been assassinated by Chinese Officers & his severed head borne away, as a proof of their valor, & a voucher for their reward of 100 Taels for a barbarian's head, also, that a lighter belonging to Messrs Thomas Hunt & Co bound from Whampoa to Hong Kong, had been captured within the Bocca Tigris, her valuable cargo plundered, & Chinese crew held to ransom! Thus our Neutrality is disregarded, & friendly relations violated, & what next, of perfidy & outrage it may become my duty to transmit for the consideration & action of the Cabinet of Washington, is a profound uncertainty.

The Baker, named Ching, who fled to Macao the day of the poisoning

was

was fortunately arrested here on the evening of the same date & taken back to Hong Kong. Forty & upwards of his workmen are also imprisoned. Were he to be tried by Martial law, there would be little doubt of his fate, but the technicalities of British Civil laws create some solicitude as to the issue of his trial, though circumstantial evidence, at least, leaves no doubt upon the public mind of his guilt. He is the person alluded to in my last despatch as the charterer of the "Thistle" & the successful actor in that tragedy.

The constant molestations of the British men-of-war at Canton has led the English Admiral to burn a large extent of the suburbs, & some of the City of Canton. According to latest advices the object of the civil & Naval Authorities is to keep open the communications until they have better means for subjugating the Vice-Roy, & for this purpose Admiral Seymour proposes to hold the "Birds nest Fort" in the Macao passage, as a safer position than the Gardens & Dutch Folly, & will blow up the latter place before he finally abandons it. His Excellency, Her Britannic Majesty's Plenipotentiary has

ceased

ceased all correspondence with the Imperial Commissioner.

I avail myself of this opportunity to transmit an Edict of the Authorities of Fuh-Chow in relation to the currency. (Exhibit C.) It is an important step in the right direction, remarkable for the official recognition it contains of the benefit of foreign trade to the Chinese people. "Our sole motive in publishing these orders (the Prefect states) is to shew Kindness to those who come from afar, & promote the interests of our own people." It is a most fortunate circumstance that thus far the Chinese officers at the other Ports, do not sympathize with the policy at the South of China.

With sentiments of distinguished consideration.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Excellency's
Most Obed.t Serv.t
Peter Parker

Despatch No. 2. Exhibit A.
19th Jan. 1857.

(Copy.)

Legation of the United States.
Macao 16. January 1857.

Sir.

The Undersigned Commissioner and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America in China is again compelled to address Your Excellency remonstrating & protesting against the violation of our Treaty of Amity, the laws of Civilized nations, & the rules of justifiable war.

The United States Consul, who arrived from Hong Kong last evening has appeared before the undersigned in person represented that a most diabolical deed had there been perpetrated by Chinese subjects, who had administered poison in the bread supplied to the public in that Colony & on board vessels in the harbor to multitudes of men, women & children, without distinction of nation; that he had himself partaken of the poison from which he is still suffering, & that other Citizens of the United States are rendered dangerously ill by the poisoned bread. -

The Undersigned as in duty bound solemnly

His Excellency Yëë
Imperial Commissioner &c. &c. &c.
Canton.

solemnly protests against this unjustifiable mode of warfare. "The use of poison as a means of war is prohibited by the unanimous concurrence of all the public Jurists of the present age. The custom of civilized nations has exempted the persons of the Sovereign & his family, the members of the civil governments, women & children, cultivators of the earth, Artizans, laborers, merchants, men of science & letters, & generally, all other public or private individuals engaged in the ordinary civil pursuits of life, from the effects of military operations, unless actually taken in arms, or guilty of some misconduct in violation of the usages of war, by which they forfeit their immunity." Now by the manner in which the poison has been administered in Hong Kong not only have the innocent women & children & all artizans, laborers, merchants & men of science belonging to the English nation, had their lives exposed, but the Citizens & subjects of other nations who are in friendly relations with China, Americans, French, Russians, Portugese, & Spaniards, have also received the deadly poison, & that some may yet die remains to be known.

The Undersigned therefore in behalf of the Government of the United States, on the part of humanity, & reverently, in the name of God, protest against this most barbarous deed, & as on former occasions when protesting against the offering of pecuniary

rewards

rewards to perfidy, & assassination of foreigners, must hold the Imperial Government of China responsible for all the consequences both to individual & national interests.

The Undersigned avails himself of the occasion to renew to Your Excellency the sentiments of his high regard & has the honor to remain.

Sir,

Your Excellency's

Obed: Servt

Peter Parker

(L.S.)

Copie

Despatch No 2. Enclosure A 2
19th Jany 1857.

C.te de Courcy
C. C. 2e
Commissaire Impérial.

Macao 15 Janvier 1857.

Un rapport de Mr Duus, Vice-Consul de S. M. F. à Hong-Kong, m'apprend que, dans la matinée d'hier, une criminelle tentative a mis en danger les jours des habitants de la colonie. Le pain, que fournit aux étrangers la boulangerie Yu-Chem, a été empoisonné. Tous ceux qui ont mangé de ce pain, plusieurs résidents Français, Mr Duus et toute sa famille ont été gravement malades.

Je ne puis douter qu'en recevant cette nouvelle, V. E. ne se sente émue de la plus profonde indignation, et qu'elle n'éprouve le plus vif regret de cet odieux attentat commis par un de ses nationaux contre les droits de la raison et de l'équité, contre les droits les plus sacrés de l'humanité et de la civilisation.

Lorsque la haine du peuple devient

aveugle et qu'elle ne craint pas d'appeler à son aide la perfidie et l'assassinat, lors qu'elle ne fait plus de distinction entre ses victimes ; lorsqu'elle égare son intelligence et qu'elle pervertit son cœur ; — il appartient aux hommes éclairés qui le dirigent de lui faire entendre de sages conseils de modération et de prudence, de lui indiquer la voie qu'il doit suivre et dont il ne saurait s'écarter sans provoquer les plus grands périls, sans que la responsabilité de Son Gt ne se trouve, tôt ou tard, gravement compromise par le fait même de ses erreurs criminelles.

V. E verra, j'en suis convaincu, dans l'empressement que j'ai mis à lui exposer les considérations précédentes, une nouvelle preuve de mon sincère désir de maintenir la paix et la bonne harmonie

entre les Lts de nos Grands Empereurs.

Veuillez agréer Mr mes sentiments

Despatch No. 2. Exhibit A 3.
19 Jan. 1857
F. 3

(Copy.)

Legation of the United States.
Macao. 16th January 1857.

Dear Sir,

I learn with extreme pain the atrocious attempt to poison indiscriminately, young & old, women & children, & public & private individuals, not only English, but those of all nations at Hong Kong, & on board Government & Merchant vessels in the Harbor, & have felt it to be an imperative duty to renew my protestation to the Imperial Commissioner, against such a mode of warfare & beg herewith to enclose you a copy of the same.

It is too painful to contemplate the scene of death & mourning which had now been exhibited in that Colony, had not a kind providence averted the result designed. I trust no serious & permanent evils have or will result to any of your Squadron, should any have been exposed, of which I have not heard.

In reply to your inquiry of a former date it

Commodore James Armstrong.
Commander in Chief of the U. S. Naval forces East India & China Seas.
Flag Ship "San Jacinto."
Hong Kong.

it occurs to me to state I have not a copy of the reply of H. E. Yëi to your communication of the 12th Dec.r last, & should be obliged by your furnishing me one.

To my protest of the 30th ult. against disturbing the peace of Macao, I yesterday received from the Imperial Commissioner a satisfactory reply, except so far as the English are concerned.

I remain,

Dear Sir,

Very Respectfully

Your Obed.t Serv.t

Peter Parker

Despatch No 2. Exhibit B.

19 Jan 7. 1857.

Yeh. Imperial Commissioner. Governor-General of the Two Kwáng provinces, a Baron of the Empire, &c &c hereby replies on business.

I received your communication of the 29th ult. on the 6th inst. In it. I observed that you say. "The Governor of Macao has informed me that the local Authorities in the vicinity of the City have received orders to prevent supplies being brought into it". I had previously received communications from the Portugese & French Authorities, in which they said. "That in consequence of the unprovoked hostile movements of the English & apprehensive lest their countrymen who conducted trade in Canton, might be needlessly involved in danger, they had required all French & Portugese subjects to retire to Macao." I have also issued notices repeatedly to American merchants that they should likewise temporarily move elsewhere to prevent being involved, thus treating them in the same manner as those other two Nations. Still more, when the relations between our two countries have been friendly, why should there be this serious step taken of prohibiting supplies from entering Macao?

It seems that very many of the people of Hiáng-Shán have resided in the western suburbs of Canton engaged in business, but since the

English

English have made these troubles burned shops and dwellings at different times to the amount of several thousands, among which were very many of the dwellings & shops of these people from Hiáng-Shan, who, thereby deprived of their business, having no dwelling places here, were obliged to flee to their native villages, these same have felt a most intense hatred against the English. Furthermore, I have heard that there are some English also living in Macao, and I think it is not altogether certain that these same shopmen from Hiáng-Shan may not again attempt something against them!

In the communication now received, you say: "A number of American merchants with their families are at this time temporarily residing in Macao," but I have had no opportunity before it was received to know this fact. Therefore, as when the French and Portuguese informed me, injunctions were sent to the district of Hiáng-Shan to make careful inquiry & cautionary orders given them that due discrimination be made, so at this time I think it can be done in the same way. In conformity with the suggestion in your letter orders can be sent to the local authorities there that they again direct the gentry & people as to this matter.

For this I reply, wishing that peace

8th

& good luck may be yours.

9th January 1857.

To.

His Excellency.

Peter Parker.

Commissioner of the U.S.A. to China.

&c &c &c

(L.S.)

Despatch No 2 Exhibit C.
19 January 1857.

(Copy)

Proclamation by Yeh, Prefect of Foo chow. - Chung, Haefung of Kantao, Lih, Magistrate of the Nan District, & Tsae, Magistrate of the How-kwan District - Issued by orders. -

We have received the following injunction from His Excellency Wang Sieh, Governor General &c. &c.

Prefect Yeh, the Superintendent of Foreign Commercial affairs, in his report upon the application made by the British & American Consuls to have the new Sold dollars declared current at similar rates, - says:- "If these "varieties of new dollars be quite pure, there can "be no deficiency in their value, & there need be "no bar to their general use as a circulating medium. "Shop-Keepers however are I fear not familiar with "their appearance & hesitate to accept them, or perhaps at "times their purity is doubtful & they do not come up to "the older coin. in either case it would not have "been expedient to force them upon the market by "official Authority, which would be doing violence to "the prejudices of the people. But a new consideration "presents itself. Since the prohibition upon the export "of Tea from Foo Keen has been taken off numbers "of merchants from all parts of the world have come "hither, bringing with them large quantities of "various kinds of new dollars, which has led to "repeated calls for their admission into the currency

"and

'& it has become necessary to issue some Proclamation
'on the subject or to direct the Magistrates of Mun and
'How Kwan to sound the feelings of the people in reference
'to the measure & make a truthful report in which
'action may be taken. To this & I beg to be furnished
'with instructions for my guidance'. Such is the
purport of Prefect Yeh's Report. Hin receiving it I
ordered the local committee of Finances to look into
the matter & give me their opinion. Time elapsed
& no answer came. So, as a promising Tea season
was approaching, bringing with it larger arrivals
of Merchants & their new dollars, rendering it
impossible to stay proceedings, & as it had become
urgently necessary for me to satisfy myself by
application to the Canton Authorities, whether the
new dollars & those hitherto in use with ornamental
millings had been there declared current at equal
or various rates, or whether differences had been
determined among the several sorts of new dollars themselves
I wrote to the Imperial High Commissioner at Canton
enclosing a copy of the Prefects' Report above quoted, &
begging him to inform me whether the new dollars &
the old ones with ornamental millings had indeed been
declared equivalent & the payment of premium made
needless, & to send me without delay copies of all
papers that had been published on the subject. The
Commissioner has answered my letter, & quoting
a report drawn up by his Provincial Commissioner

of

of Finances. he says, "the test by which current dollars should be judged is purity of touch. In the autumn of the 3rd year of His Imperial Majesty's Reign, certain newly arrived dollars with Eagles' heads & various other impressions were in circulation & although differently stamped from the old kind with a devils head & flowery milling, yet they were the same coin & both were equally pure in touch. The Shop-Keepers of Canton having repeatedly prayed to have the new sorts admitted into Circulation on joint terms with the old, orders were given accordingly, & it was positively forbidden to extort any premium on their payment, unless when their purity was doubtful, in which case of course a difference was to be made. These dollars are now generally current & no difficulty had been experienced in consequence." Such is the Commissioners reply to my application. Being doubtful (as I have already remarked) whether the various new dollars so plentifully introduced of late by English & American Merchants might pass current at par with the old coin, & whether, while objectionable from their strangeness to the people of Foochow, they had yet been officially declared properly current at Canton, at equal rates with the old dollars or if not so at different rates from the old & from each other. I wrote to the Imperial Commissioner & received from him a reply apprizing me that these new dollars although

differently

differently stamped from the old kind were yet similar in point of purity, & had accordingly been declared current at equal rates. Such being the case I have no hesitation in following the same course here for uniformity sake & I order therefore that proclamations be forthwith issued to that effect for general information & guidance.

Having received this injunction from His Excellency the Vice Roy it becomes our duty to issue this proclamation under our joint authority & we hereby proclaim for the information of all traders within & without the City, Shop Keepers, Soldiers, common people, & persons of every description. You must all know that the test by which dollars are to be judged is purity of touch. The dollars lately arrived from foreign countries stamped with Eagle's Heads & divers other impressions & the old dollars stamped with a Dragon's head & flowery millings are one & the same thing. Both Kinds are of standard purity & both of standard value. Both have been declared current at equal rates in Canton Province, & no excuse on the plea of imperfect acquaintance with the newer coin can be admitted for interfering with it's free circulation here. From this moment therefore see to it that you all obey this mandate & use all coins equally in your Commercial dealings refraining from exacting premium of any kind. Should you meet with any dollars which have an admixture of copper in their

composition

composition, & therefore deficient in value; you will be at liberty to accept them at a proportional allowance. Our motive in publishing these orders is to shew kindness to those who come from afar & promote the interests of our own people. Let all implicitly obey. Do not oppose this special Edict.

Given this 18th day of the 11th month, in the 6th year of Heen-Fung's Reign.

11th Decr. 1855.

Translated by.

(Signed.) W. H. Medhurst

True Copy.
Thos. Reynolds.

Rec'd Apl. Mr Dennis

Legation of the United States.

No. 3. Macao 28th Janry. 1857.

His Excellency

The Secretary of State of the United States

Washington.

Sir

In submitting to the Department the correspondence of the Legation since the date of my last, I am unable to accompany it with the comments which many of the subjects embraced therein demand, as for example the little avail of correspondence with the Imperial Commissioner as illustrated by Exhibit A, the unsatisfactory state of our relations as shown in Exhibit B. the necessity for the early appointment of a Consul for Ningpo. Exhibit C. the adjustment at last of the 'Duty Question' at Shanghae Exhibit G. and the great embarrassment from the want of persons Exhibits B. & G. but the limited time before the despatch of the Bi-monthly Mail, precludes doing it in a satisfactory manner. & I must content myself with the hope that in the mean time

the

the correspondence will speak for itself.
The state of affairs in China, is daily becoming more & more serious. The inadequacy of the entire foreign forces in China to meet the exigencies of the extraordinary crisis, particularly the insufficient British force for British interests, & the consequent bearing thereof upon all our Diplomatic relations, is the subject of greatest solicitude at present. The report of the early arrival of 1000 troops from India mentioned in Despatch No. 1 of the 13th inst has proved incorrect. All hope of a reinforcement from Singapore, is disappointed by the inquietude of the Chinese in that settlement. The hostilities in Persia, exhausts for the moment, the attention of the British Government in India. Fifteen thousand troops have been despatched thither & an equal number are held in reserve, for the same destination, and considerable time must elapse before a reinforcement from England can arrive. In the mean time the Imperial Commissioner is active in the employment of all the means at his command, & as the Department is informed, he is most unscrupulous in the choice

of

of those means. Renewed attempts at poisoning have been made in Hong Kong. Assassinations are still practiced - & without discrimination (Exhibit B.2.) The insecurity of the British, from poison, incendiarism, and armed junks said to be collecting in large numbers in the vicinity is sensibly felt. Fresh uneasiness is manifested at Amoy, & Her Majesty's Steamer "Simpson" has again proceeded to that Port. A statement appeared in the "North China Herald" of the 17th inst. regarding the Authorities at Foo Chow, that they have received no orders, but if orders come they must obey them. A despatch from Mr Way, acting Consul at Ningpo, has come to hand since taking up my pen, enclosing an address from United States Citizens at that Port, representing their exposed position, without protection & means of flight, earnestly requesting, if possible a man of war may be sent immediately. The Junks which have arrived at Shang Hae from Tien Tsin bring the intelligence that the Chinese Government is fortifying that Port, a fact clearly indicative of the spirit with which we have to contend, & the obstacles to be surmounted

which by delay may become formidable, & in this connection I wish to confirm my despatch of the 12th December (No 34)

The intelligence from Shanghai, under date of the 17th inst. that an Imperial Commissioner from Peking was daily expected there, & would proceed by the first Steamer to Canton, with power to settle all difficulties is not corroborated by later advices. A number of Chinese arrived in the harbor of Hong Kong on the 24th inst. in the Steamer "Antelope" under the United States flag, & were then transferred to another American owned Steamer, "Lily," & landed at Macao the same day. I learn from the Governor of Macao that one of them is the newly appointed Commander in Chief of the Manchow garrison at Canton, an office vacated nearly a year since by the demise of the late General Meih. So admirably did His Excellency & suite manage to disguise themselves, that their official character was not suspected. His Excellency made no stop in Macao, but proceeded at once to his destination. By this opportunity, the Governor General

has

has doubtless received direct & full in-
-structions from Peking, & I shall look
with much interest to ascertain if his
policy undergoes any change. It is
quite probable the newly arrived Manchow
may have special powers delegated
to him from the Emperor.

With sentiments of distinguished
consideration.

I have the honor to be.
Sir
Your Excellency's
Most Obed. Serd.
Peter Parker

Index

Despatch No. 3. 28th January 1857.

A 1	His Excellency Yëë to P. Parker - (Trade at Canton)	75	Jan.y	1857
A 2	do " do (burning the Factories)	15	"	"
A 3	A joint manifesto of the inhabitants of more than 30 streets in the suburbs of Canton	14	"	"
B 1	His Excellency Yëë to O. H. Perry (Interpreter)	29	Nov.r	1856
" 2	O. H. Perry to P. Parker & (Dr Ryder's case)	19	Jan.y	1857
" "	Enclosure & P. Blanchard to O. H. Perry (")	9	"	"
" 3	O. H. Perry to P. Parker & (Capture of "Cycleus")	19	"	"
	Enclosure J. Hunt & Co to O. H. Perry (")	13	"	"
" 4	O. H. Perry to P. Parker & (abandonment of Property)	20	"	"
	Enclosure J. Hunt & Co to O. H. Perry (")	13	"	"
" 5	A. P. Blanchard to P. Parker (desecration of graves)	21	"	"
" 6	O. H. Perry to P. Parker & (Do)	21	"	"
"	Enclosure A. P. Blanchard to O. H. Perry (do) the same as to P. Parker	21	"	"
" 7	P. Parker to O. H. Perry (Prisoner Mc Lane)	22	"	"
" 8	do do (Circular - Extracts of correspondence)	23	"	"
" 9	O. H. Perry to P. Parker & (Escape of Prisoner)	26	"	"
	Enclosure Capt.n Smith to O. H. Perry - (do)	19	"	"
" 10	O. H. Perry to P. Parker & (removal to Sybille &c)	26	"	"
" "	Enclosure A. P. Blanchard to O. H. Perry (do)	21	"	"
" 11	O. H. Perry to P. Parker & (J. Hunt & Co)	26	"	"
	Enclosure J. Hunt & Co to O. H. Perry (Do.)	21	"	"
6 1	Commodore Armstrong to P. Parker &	20	"	"
	Enclosure & his Excellency Yee to Com: Armstrong	22	Dec.r	1856

6 2.	P. Parker to Com: Armstrong	(desecration of grave)	23	Jan?	1857
6 3.	Com: Armstrong to P. Parker	(do)	26	"	"
D 1.	T. H. Hyatt to P. Parker	(stoppage of duties at Amoy)	5	"	"
" 2.	P. Parker to T. H. Hyatt	(do)	21	"	"
E 1.	P. Parker to N. C. Waing	(do at Foochow)	23	"	"
E 2.	do " do	(Amoy)	23	"	"
F.	R. D. Way to P. Parker	(Ningpo Consulate)	10	Dec?	1856
G.	R. C. Murphy to P. Parker	(Duty question settled at Shanghai)	20	Jan?	1857

Desp No 3. Exhibit A.

28 Jan 7. 1847.

Yeh. Imperial Commissioner. Governor. General of the Two Kwang, a Baron of the Empire, &c. &c hereby replies.

I received your communication of the 30th Dec.r on the 14th inst. have made myself acquainted with its contents. What you now remark respecting the fort near Hiang shan having fired upon an American vessel, has been already mentioned in your Excellency's former communication, & I have fully & plainly replied thereto. It appears that this way (to Canton) by Hiang-shan has not been used by foreign ships in former times, & that the gentry & people of that district had built the Fort to defend themselves against thieves & banditti; it was therefore difficult to discriminate as to the character of the vessel, seeing that foreign vessels had heretofore not passed that way. As I stated in my former communications, hereafter I expect strict orders will be given to Americans & their vessels to go in the usual passage, & not again pass through this channel, which will be also in conformity

with

with the Treaty. You also remark "In any communication of the 31st of March, I stated that the Caldera having been seriously injured by a severe storm, & in a sinking condition, & was unprepared to repel the pirates by her cannon." I thought that American Ships were not usually afraid of the winds & waves; & if, on this occasion, as you say, the "Caldera was so handily bestead as to be in danger of sinking, how then can you say that the pirates could get near her in their vessels? When, "therefore, you allege the stormy weather as the reason of her putting in it is easy to see that there is no proof in the case.-

You again remark, "American Merchants have imported goods which are now stored in pack-houses, & have contracted for goods which are now ready to go aboard Ship, & I therefore request that these exports may be shipped, & these goods now stored in pack-houses may be moved to

places

places of security:- It is well known that American Merchants since they came to China have never been interfered with in their trade, either in importing or exporting goods: but owing to the English having now come up with their troops, every pass & place & passage in the river is most strictly & closely guarded by their Ships. The reason why trade is impracticable. & Merchants are stopped in this manner, is all owing to the English; they have made difficulty with other nations, & stopped the trade, so that there is even no way for ready money to circulate in the vicinity of the City & rivers. As Your Excellency already knows that as this produce is now in a dangerous condition. & the sooner it is removed the better it will be for its owners: so I too have lately heard that trade is very flourishing at present at both Shang Hae & Amoy. if they remove to those parts, there will

be

be nothing of this sort. (to hinder them.) This is a friendly & very important remark, & I think Your Excellency will agree with me.)

For this I reply, hoping at the same time that Happiness may increase

16th January 1857.

To His Excellency.

Peter Parker.

Commissioner & Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America in China

Dispatch 3. Exhibit A2.
28 Jany. 1857.

Yeh, Imperial Commissioner, Governor General of the Two Kwang Provinces, a Baron of the Empire, &c &c. hereby replies:

I received your communication of 22nd Decr. on the 14th inst. & have observed what you remark, that on the 14th & 15th days of December the Thirteen Factory Street & other streets thereabouts were all burned by fire, at which time the American dwellings were likewise consumed. Now that which protected & guarded the Thirteen Factories on all sides was the police Station in Old China St. where officers & soldiers were posted for the express purpose of protecting American & all other Merchants. At the time the English commenced their unprovoked hostilities, Consul Parry requested protection, & I then informed him that strenuous efforts would be exerted for his protection. However in the last part of October the English suddenly tore down all the Shops &

dwellings

dwellings in the streets near the Thirteen Factory &
drove out all the officers & soldiers from the guard-
house in China Street & placed their troops there,
who kept guard so strict & close that the Shopmen
could not get to their Shops. I made inquiry into
all these circumstances, & as the English had ex-
-pelled the Chinese Officers & Soldiers, there was
no way for me to protect the Americans; & therefore
as I repeatedly told Consul Perry, & also Commodore
Armstrong, the sooner they moved away the
less danger there would be of their being in-
-volved or injured.—

It was altogether unexpected, then,
when on the 3rd watch of the night of 14th Decr
in the Thirteen Factory Street ward, the very
place guarded by the English troops, a fire broke
out & burned from Old China Street - through
twelve other Streets. Every body saw it, & all
know they were set on fire by the English troops.

The

The fire-engines of the contiguous streets went up to assist in extinguishing it, but they were drawen away & the men fired at, killing some & wounding more than 20 persons. As the English prevented anybody coming to put out the fire, it was plainly their intention to burn the Factories, without any reason bring all this damage on other nations.

Your remark, that "The American merchants have suffered great losses by this fire, & the government of the United States will look to that of China for full indemnification to each one, on the grounds which were given by Mr. Marshall in his communication sent to you about the month of September, 1853. as soon as full lists of the losses suffered can be sent in to your Excellency:- is altogether inexplicable to me. Now the letter of Mr. Marshall of September 1853. was sent when

the

the insurgents were making trouble at Shanghai, at which time, some Americans had received injury & losses, & I then replied to it in a plain manner. Why is this attempt to make a claim for compensation from those circumstances? The goods & property in the houses of American merchants were set on fire & destroyed by Englishmen, & you must look to them for indemnification & not to the Chinese Government. Your Excellency has the reputation of being clearheaded in the management of affairs, & cannot implicate our Government with yours on account of the evil doings of the English, & to force us to make this indemnity will certainly be against all reason.

For this I reply, hoping that you are happy.

15th January 1857.

To His Excellency
Peter Parker
Commissioner & Minister Plenipotentiary
of the U. S. A. in China.

Agent manifests. The Warehousemen, Shopmen, Inmates & others dwelling in the associated wards in the western suburbs of the City of Canton near the Yuelaingate, viz Kum. te fan & about Physic Street, in all more than thirty Streets, make this statement, setting forth in detail the deep misery & injury they have suffered.

In October last, the English Consul Parkes, on account of a trifling dispute about a lorcha excited a strife with our Government, but he posted a notice on the wall behind the English Factories expressing his kind intentions to the people living thereabouts which we all believed to be true, & therefore quietly remained at our occupations as usual. To our great surprise, after burning the Forts & attacking the City, the English forces set fire to the Hongs, houses, & shops outside of the Tsing-hai & Wei sien gates, & then proceeded to take possession & destroy the shops adjoining the Factories, forcibly occupying them without permission. In direct violation of former assertions, on the evening of the 14th being on guard there, they further set fire to buildings in the Factory ward, & when the Streets sent help to extinguish the flames, their men were killed & wounded, so that all the Foreign Factories could be burned. Even when the

Engines

engines threw water at the foot of the Factories to put out the fire, their men were stopped by the English Soldiers. It is usually believed that foreigners are very active in suppressing a fire, but what can we think of such proceedings of these Soldiers, driving off this proffered aid? Then behold the strange things they have said about this new act of disorder, changing it upon Chinese incendiaries, so as to involve other people in crime, & no better evidence of their real intentions is wanted. The people in the King-hwa, Swan, King, & other streets have plainly made these facts known in the joint manifesto they issued last month.

Again, to our surprise have they trodden in their former ways, & shown their outrageous malignity worse than ever, for on the 12th of January, the Officers themselves led the Soldiers at early dawn scattering combustibles with their hands, & set fire to houses all at once, as everybody then saw & all agree in saying. By these repeated acts of incendiarism, several thousands of houses have been burnt, several millions of dollars have been destroyed, while old men, women & young Children, have been wounded, killed & cast out desolate. Who can tell the extent of their miseries & sufferings?

Alas, Alas! we have had dealings with

them

them in our Hongs, our warehouses, our Shops, town stores, now for more than a hundred years, this cause of hatred has ever arisen between us. How could they at last be so lost to all kindness as to once & again injure us so greatly in life & property, burning & killing in this way! What ideas have they of Celestial reasons, what regard for law & order? — We are sure that the statutes of your countries permit no such proceedings.

Thus have we presumed to jointly state our wrongs with plainness, humbly hoping that the great merchants, men with humane feelings & honorable men from all other Foreign lands will candidly & carefully consider these statements & make them known abroad with the true reasons thereof. By so doing, those families who have been burnt out will be very grateful. —

14th January 1867.

A Joint statement of the associated wards near — Yulan Gate, Kan-li-fan. & Physic Street.

X. with No 3

Despatch No 3. Exhibit B.1
28 Jan 7. 1857.

Yeh. Governor. General of the Two Kwang, &c.
herewith replies:

I yesterday received your communication, dated the 28th of November, in which you state; "I can procure no person to assist in translating public documents, & the public business of the two countries is thereby greatly obstructed. I accordingly request that, in compliance with the 18th Article of the Treaty, these obstructions may all be removed, & that you will direct competent persons, acquainted with letters, to assist in translating these public dispatches & letters." On reading these words, I am at a loss to understand them; for since the ratification of the treaty between our nations, those who have translated public documents have been your Countrymen, & they have engaged assistance as they pleased, nor have I put any impediments in the way. If any persons are willing to go to your Consulate, let them do so as writers, for there is no difficulty. But if there be no Chinese who is willing to do the translations, how can I issue orders for them to do? For this I return you this reply.

29th November 1856.

To Perry.
Consul of the U. S. A. in Canton.

Despatch 3. Exhibit B. 2

28 Jany. 1857.

(Copy.)

U. S. Consulate of Canton:
temporarily located at Macao.
19th January 1857.

Sir,

It is with pain that I find myself called upon to inform Your Excellency that a most cruel murder, was committed at Whampoa at about five o'clock in the morning of the 8th inst. the victim was a person employed as keeper of a Chop said to be owned by a Doctor Ryder a naturalized American Citizen.

I enclose herewith a copy of an official communication received by me the day before yesterday from W. Blanchard acting

His Excellency
Peter Parker
U. S. Commissioner
&c &c

Acting U. S. Consul at Whampoa, detailing the facts connected with the murder.

You will perceive on perusal of Mr. Blachard's letter, that the Chop on board which the murder was committed, wore the American flag & had it hoisted at the time. I hope & trust if merely for the honor of our Flag that some notice will be taken of the matter, & the Chinese taught, that our Flag affords protection and that its sanctity cannot be outraged with impunity.

I have the honor to be

Sir.

Your Most Obed.t Serv.t

(Signed.) Olivier H. Perry.

True Copy.
Thos. W. Reynolds

Copy.

Whampoa. 9th Jany. 1857.

Oliver H. Perry Esqre
U. S. Consul.

I beg to inform you a most cruel murder was perpetrated yesterday morning about 5 o'clock at this anchorage. The victim was the keepew of a Chop once occupied by Dr. Ryder By the best evidence I can gain it was the work of two petty Mandarin boats with ten or twenty men in each. From the appearance of the room he last occupied, the bed, the pools of blood inside & outside, he was probably surprised while sleeping and beheaded on the balcony where much of his hair was lying in the blood. The Chop wore the American flag had it hoisted all night as

I

I took it down in the morning - The murdered man was only known to me by calling at times at our shop formerly. I think he was a native of Holland. his name I am ignorant of. His effects are on board the Sch. Marshall - His body has not been found. -

Your Obedient Servant

Signed A. P. Blanchard.

True Copy.

Thos. J. Reynolds.

Despatch 3. Exhibit B3

26 Jan 7. 1857.

(Copy.)

U. S. Consulate of Canton.
temporarily located at Macao.

19th January 1857.

Sir

I beg leave to enclose herewith a copy of a letter addressed to me by Messrs Thomas Hunt & Co. American Citizens, informing me of the capture by Mandarine boats of a Lighter & Cargo belonging to them called the "Excelsior".

I have been told that the said Lighter has for several years been plying in & about the waters of Whampoa, & well known to the Chinese as being an American vessel, & ignorance of its American ownership cannot be pleaded by the Chinese

His Excellency
Peter Parker
U. S. Commissioner
&c &c &c

Chinese.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your Most Obed.t Serv.t

(Signed) Oliver H. Perry.

True Copy.

Thos. J. Reynolds.

Copy.

Whampoa. 13th. Jany. 1857.

C. H. Perry Esqre

U. S. Consul for Canton.

Sir,

We have to inform you that on Tuesday the 6th inst. a Lighter of Ninety capacity called "Excelsior" belonging to us was despatched for Hong Kong by us with a Cargo also our own, consisting of Sixty seven Rolls of matting, five hundred blocks for Ships use, two Casks Hams, sundry Boxes of Bitters & Corn Meal &c, all consigned to our Hong Kong firm. That we are now in receipt of intelligence that she was taken by Mandarine Boats & is still in their possession also her Cargo, twelve miles below this anchorage & that her crew, (Chinese) are held by their Captors for

ransom

ransom.

Having no means at our command to regain posesion of our property herein named, we can only bring the facts to your notice begging you will communicate the same to our Minister for our redress.

Very Respectfully

(signed) Thomas Hunt &c

True Copy.

Thos. J. Reynolds

Despatch 3. Exhibit B 4

28 Jany. 1857.

(Copy.)

U. S. Consulate of Canton,
temporarily located at Macao.
20th January 1857.

Sir.

I beg leave to enclose herewith a copy of a communication received by me on Saturday last from Messrs Thomas Hunt & Co American Merchants, setting forth how & why they were obliged to abandon their property at Whampoa, causing them large pecuniary loss, & all for the want of proper & necessary protection & I beg leave to state that I myself was at Whampoa at the time & that all the facts as stated by them in regard thereto are true & correct, & that I, with them & other American Citizens, was obliged to leave that anchorage under the protection of an English & Spanish man of war.

It is indeed mortifying to be obliged to record the fact, that the American Citizens at Whampoa, were left entirely & solely to the protection of foreign vessels of war, at a time too, when rewards were offered for their heads & when two of our own were anchored in the harbor of Hong Kong some ninety miles distant.

His Excellency Peter Parker,
U. S. Commissioner &c

B—

engaged in aiding in the protection & defence of a British Colony doubly able to protect & defend itself.

I have the honor to be,

Sir

Your Most Obed.t Serv.t

(Signed) Oliver H. Perry.

True Copy

Thos. Reynolds.

B—

(Copy.) Whampoa 13th Jan.y 1857

Oliver H. Perry Esqre
U. S. Consul of Canton.

Sir

We beg to inform you that on the 28th ult. the U. S. S. Frigate "San Jacinto" bearing the broad pendant of Commodore James Armstrong commanding the Naval forces of the UStates in China & the East Indies, left this anchorage. At that time we were owners of a large amount of property ashore at this anchorage consisting of Dock yards. Stock Buildings. Steam Engines. Copper, Iron, Wood & Spars adapted for Docking building & repairing of vessels. together with several vessels afloat at this Anchorage. We were under the full belief that while the U. S. Naval force was at this anchorage it was for the protection of American lives & property & also when it was withdrawn there existed no necessity for its remaining & that American lives & property would be preserved inviolate. This belief was strengthened by repeated conversations of one of our Partners Wm. H. P. Blanchard then Acting as the U. S. Vice Consul at this anchorage under full power from Yourself.

with —

with the Commander in Chief of our Squadron who on the day of his Flag Ship's departure stated it as his full belief that we could remain with security. On the morning of the 7th inst. our confidence that peaceable relations between Chinese Authorities & our own could be maintained, were destroyed, by a murder committed by Mandarin Boatmen on board a vessel bearing our Flag & owned by an American while lying near us. We therefore lost not an hour in preparing to place our property where it might be secure. Upon this Tragedy we are farther advised that one of our Lighters filled with Cargo for our Hong Kong firm has been taken by the Mandarin Junks, twelve miles below this Anchorage, an official account of which we herewith hand you. Closing in upon us we have had to repair to the protection of an English Frigate the 'Sybille' now here where we were received with the utmost kindness & assurance that they would gladly give us a guard for our Property, but that they had on board only one third their complement of men, the others being on duty at Canton. Her departure is our signal for abandonment of all our property which cannot be secured afloat in time to be towed to Hong Kong by her side. That hour has now arrived but for the timely aid

of

of two Merchant Steamers sent to us engaged by us at great expense, having on board a guard of Sailors with two Lieutenants from the U. S. Stmr. Frigate "San Jacinto" we would have had to abandon all our Property. On the 9th inst. we addressed a note to Commodore James Armstrong asking the aid of the "San Jacinto" at Hong Kong to tow or Convoy our Property, but she is not here. Owing to the limited time afforded us to secure all our property on shore & our Chop afloat together with Moorings for our vessels which we were obliged to slip, consequently must leave what remains to protection of Chinese Authorities under Treaty Obligations. They failing to do this we must look to our own Government to assist in securing the balance or on failure to render that aid to indemnify us for the full amount of our loss. The amount of loss of Property already sustained by us is in the aggregate about one hundred and thirty thousand Dollars exclusive of injury to our business, which our Books show for three Years past averaged Four thousand dollars profit per Month & this must be considered as our loss (exclusive of profits derived from Dock yards and which we place at thirty thousand Dollars per Annum.) each month so long as we are subjected by the present troubles with the Chinese, to an abandonment of our residence at Whampoa.

We

We will soon forward a schedule of actual loss.

Very Respectfully
(Signed) Thomas Hunt & Co.

True Copy
Thos Reynolds

Despatch 3. Exhibit B.
28 Jan 7. 1857.

Macao. January 2d. 1857.

Sir.

I received information on or about the 9th inst which at Whampoa that Chinese subjects had deliniated the bodies of all or a portion of the crew men belonging to the United States Lgt Cutter Arrow, who had met death by Wm or drowned at the Barrier Forts on the 8th inst and whose remains had received interment on Danes Island. That not only have the Chinese defiled & desecrated the Graves of their Heroes by exhuming as well as by their presence, but they have decapitated each body and borne to Canton the Heads of our Men in order to secure the Reward which be all know is to be indiscriminately offered.

My authority for the above statement is a Chinese Trader of Bamboo Town my estimation of whose character is such to warrant me fully in considering the Statement entirely correct.

I am Consultant as yourself with Chinese form and ideal of revenge and retaliation

You will discern a double motive in this more than barbarous Act, namely, Vengeance, as well as reward for the evidence of the violation of Laws recognized as inviolate even by Savages all over the Globe!

To His Excellency
Peter Parker
United States Commissioner

With much Respect
Yr Obt Servant
Wm. P. Blanchard
U.S. Vice Consul at Ha

Despatch No 3 Exhibit B 8

28 Jany 1857.

(Copy.)
C

United States Consulate of Canton.
temporarily located at Macao.
21st January 1857.

Sir,

I this morning for the first time learnt from Henry P. Blanchard Esqre Actg. U. S. Vice Consul at Whampoa, that he had been informed by a Chinaman whose character hitherto "warrants him fully in considering his statement entirely correct," that the Chinese had disinterred the bodies of the brave men who lost their lives in fighting for & defending their Country's honor when the barrier Forts were captured by the U. S. Naval forces in November last, & I requested him to furnish me at the earliest moment with a written statement of all the facts connected

His Excellency
Peter Parker
U. S. Commissioner
&c &c &c

connected with this barbarous & cowardly desecration of the dead.

I have but this moment received Mr. Blanchards written statement, a copy of which I herewith enclose.

It is to be hoped that the Commanding Officer of our Naval forces on this Station, when this horrible & dastardly act is brought to his notice, when he finds the cruelty & barbarity of the Chinese brought home to himself, that the graves of the brave men who under his orders lost their lives in defending their Country's honor, have been desecrated & their remains mutilated, when he must feel & know that the Chinese pay no regard to treaty obligations, that they make no distinction whatever in their rewards for heads, between Citizens of a country at peace & those of a country at war with China, will at once undeceive himself of the false

ideas

ideas under which he labors in regard to the character of the Chinese & the manner in which they ought to be treated; & that he will rouse himself up & assume some responsibility, sufficient at least to protect American lives and defend them, so far as his present force will admit, against insult & murder.

I have the honor to be,

Sir

Your most Obed. Serv.t

Signed. Oliver H. Perry.

True Copy.

Thos. J. Reynolds.

Despatch No 3 Exhibit B.
28 Jany. 1857.

(Copy.)

Legation of the United States.
Macao 22nd Jany. 1857.

Oliver H. Perry Esqr.
U. S. Consul Canton.

Sir

Referring to your despatch of the 17th October 1856 relative to the Mariner James McLean, alias Carley, convicted before your Consular Court on the 14th of October of Manslaughter. I have to inform you, that in the absence of any U. S. Prison at this Port, I have obtained the consent of His Excellency the Governor of this Colony, to confine said Criminal in the Jail of Macao, at an expense of 25 Cents per diem, till other arrangements can be made.

When said James McLean shall be brought here, on your application to the Governor, His Excellency will issue the

requisite

requisite order for his commitment to the Portuguese Jail.

Your Obed. Servt

(Signed) Peter Parker

Despatch 3. Exhibit B8

28 Jan 7. 1857

Legation of the United States.

Macao 23 Jan 7. 1857.

O. H. Perry Esqr.

U. S. Consul

Canton

Sir.

The accompanying extracts from the correspondence of this Legation with the Imperial Commissioner relative to the shipment of Merchandize contracted for, & the removal of Imported goods from the Pack-houses at Canton to a place of safety.- You are hereby authorized to circulate for the information of the merchants of the United States at this Port.

My communication of the 30th ult. was based in part upon the assumption that it is not the Chinese Officers of Government

who

who have interdicted the trade of the United States at Canton." but it has been of no avail. I shall now apprize His Excellency that the assertion that "American Merchants since they came to China have never been interfered with in their trade, either in importing or exporting goods" is not sustained by their experience the past three months, for which the Chinese Government will be held responsible

Respectfully.

Your Obed. Servt.

Peter Parker.

Extract from Despatch to the Imperial Commissioner
of 30th December 1856. —

* * * "Your Excellency states most correctly 'as the Governments of China & the United States desire to preserve the friendly relations existing between them, it is highly desirable that the present state of things be considered in so doing.' &c. Now what is the state of things at Canton? There exists a controversy between Your Excellency & the High Authorities of Great Britain, but, on the one hand His Majesty the Emperor has not declared war against England, neither on the other, have the British Authorities even taken the preliminary step to a war of declaring so much as a blockade of the Port. Whilst this is the exact position of the Chinese & English the United States are

neutral, the friend of all, the enemy of none. It is therefore manifestly right they should be treated as a neutral friendly nation. and the property & person of their Citizens should be respected & their treaty rights not interfered with. It is with much satisfaction the Undersigned learns from Your Excellency's despatch before him that "China is not weak & unable to protect those who come to her shores." and "it is not the Chinese Officers of Government who have interdicted the trade of the United States at Canton". The Undersigned Commissioner as in duty bound, has now to inform Your Excellency that Citizens of the United States have imported Merchandize, stored in Warehouses at Canton, others have goods contracted for ready for shipment, the money in hand for payment thereof, vessels waiting to

receive

receive them. The Undersigned therefore addresses Your Excellency specially to inquire if you will now allow these goods to be exported, & the property in warehouses removed to a place of security, granting such facilities as by treaty they are entitled to & that no harm shall be done them, their goods, or their vessels by either the Civil or Military Authorities, in so-doing? Should the British Officers throw any obstacles in the way, them, as Your Excellency suggests, they will be responsible for the consequences. As these goods, both imports & Exports, are in an exposed condition, & the sooner they are removed from danger the better for all concerned, Your Excellency is earnestly requested to favor the Undersigned with an early reply.") + + +

(Signed) Peter Parker.

True Extract

Thos. J. Reynolds

Private Secy

Extract from the Imperial Commissioners reply to the above dated 15th January 1857.

"You again remark American Merchants have imported goods which are now stored in pack-houses, & have contracted for goods which are now ready to go aboard Ship. & I therefore request that these exports may be shipped, & these goods now stored in pack-houses may be moved to places of security."

It is well known that American Merchants since they came to China have never been interfered with in their trade, either in importing or exporting goods; but owing to the English having now come up with their troops, every pass & place & passage in the river is most strictly & closely guarded by their Ships. The reason why trade is impracticable, & merchants are stopped in

this

this manner, is all owing to the English: they have made difficulty with other Nations, & stopped the trade, so that there is even no way for ready money to circulate in the vicinity of the City Inwen. As Your Excellency already knows that as this produce is now in a dangerous condition, and the sooner it is removed the better it will be for its owners: so I too have lately heard that trade is very flourishing at present at both Shang Hae & Amoy. If they remove to those parts, there will be nothing of this sort {to hinder them} This is a friendly & very important remark. I think Your Excellency will agree with me.'

True Extract.

Thos. J. Reynolds.

Private Secretary.

Despatch 3. Exhibit B9
28 Jany. 1857.

(Copy.)

U. S. Consulate of Canton.
temporarily located at Macao.
26th. January 1857.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose herewith, a copy of a letter received by me from Commander Smith, informing me that James McLane under sentence of the U. S. Consular Court at Canton, made his escape on the 11th inst. from the U. S. Ship "Levant".

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your Most Obed. Servt.
(Signed) O. H. Perry.

His Excellency.
Peter Parker.
U. S. Commissioner
&c. &c.

True copy
Thos. Reynolds

(Copy.)

U. S. Ship "Levant"
Hong Kong 19th Jany. 1857.

Sir

James Mc Lane who was transferred to this Ship from the U. S. Ship "Portsmouth" under sentence of the U. S. Consular Court at Canton, made his escape on the 11th inst.

Very Respectfully
Your Obed. Servt.
(Sgd) W. Smith
Comg U. S. S. "Levant"

S. H. Perry Esqr
U. S. Consul at Canton.
Macao.

True Copy.
Thos. J. Reynolds

Despatch 3. Exhibit 10

28th Jany 1857.

(Copy.)

U. S. Consulate of Canton
temporarily located at Macao.
26th January 1857.

Sir,

I beg leave to enclose herewith a copy of a letter received by me from Henry P. Blanchard Esqr U. S. Vice Consul at Whampoa. his communication speaks for itself & requires no comment from me.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Most Obed. Servt
(signed) Oliver H. Perry.

His Excellency
Peter Parker
U. S. Commissioner
&c &c
Macao.

True Copy.
Thos J. Reynolds

Copy.

(Copy.) Macao. 21st January 1857.

Sir,

I have to advise you that on the 7th inst. I was compelled to move my floating residence at this anchorage to a point half a mile further up river within close proximity to H. M. Frigate "Sybille" for the protection of my life as well as for the safety of the property on board belonging to the Firm I represent, that I might me within hail in the event of an attack upon my person by Chinese subjects, an event which I had good reason to apprehend as a Murder by Mandarines had been perpetrated on board an American Chop near me. That on the evening of the 8th inst. I was obliged to take refuge on board of the aforesaid Frigate "Sybille" as did every European in the entire reach from the exposed position we found ourselves in during an engagement between some two hundred Mandarines & one hundred & fifty Rebel boats which action lasted from two to three a.m. I met a most cordial reception from the Officers of the "Sybille" & the offer of their protection so long as they could afford it me.

On the 9th inst. I wrote to Commodore James Armstrong, Comg. the U. S. Naval forces

at

at Hong Kong asking the aid of the "San Jacinto" to secure the property of our house - We received two officers & forty men who with myself were obliged for safety of our lives to withdraw from Whampoa on the day of the "Sybille's" departure under her convoy - without her presence I should not have escaped with my life unless I had made an application to the Commander of a Spanish Brig of War which also formed a portion of our convoy. As you intimated your intention two weeks since to fly your Consular Flag of the United States at Whampoa & desired me to prepare accommodations to that end I must own that neither your own valuable life or mine would have been spared an hour after the departure of the "Sybille" as I had only British protection afforded me.

With much Respect
Henry P. Blanchard
U. S. Vice Consul of Whampoa

To. Oliver H. Perry Esq.
U. S. Consul of Canton

True Copy.
Thos. Reynolds

Despatch No 3. Enclosure B.
28 January 1857.

Copy.

U. S. Consulate of Canton.
temporarily located at Macao.
26th January 1857.

Sir.

I have the honor to enclose herewith a Copy of a letter received by me on the 24th inst. from Messrs Thomas Hunt & Co. in reference to the destruction of their property left by them at Whampoa on the day they left that Anchorage under convoy of H. B. M. Frigate "Sybille".—

I have the honor to be
Sir.
Your most Obed. Servt.
(Signed.) Olivier H. Perry.

His Excellency.
Peter Parker.
U. S. Commissioner
&c &c &c
Macao.

(Copy.)

Macao 21st January 1857

Sir

Referring to our letter to you dated Whampoa, 13th Jany. in which we advised that we were about leaving that anchorage with what property of ours we could secure afloat under convoy of H. M. Frigate "Sybille", for Hong Kong; we beg now to call your attention to advices received from Whampoa to day touching the remainder of our property which we could not bring away & which we then duly notified you we must leave to protection of Chinese Authorities under treaty obligations providing our own Government could not render us aid in securing it & on failure to render that aid we must look to it for full indemnification of our loss: the advice at hand being to the effect that on the 16th inst. our Dock yard buildings were seen in flames by a Chinese Trader of Bamboo Town, Tysing, who reached here to night from Canton, from another authority that a large American Flag was seen flying from the Flag Staff (where we had nailed it on the day we abandoned Whampoa) while the buildings surrounding it were in flames.

Thes

This is the result we anticipated for all property which we felt must be abandoned when we begged of the Commodore to grant us a war Steamer under whose guns to remove it: We trust sincerely that you together with the Commissioner may fully appreciate our endeavours (though they have proved unavailing) to gain that arm of assistance which Citizens of our Republic resident in foreign Countries have a right to expect will be afforded them in cases of danger to life and insecurity to property. We might also state that we have indisputable evidence that the destruction of our Docks & buildings just referred to was entirely the work of Mandarines.

Very Respectfully Yours
(Sgd.) Thomas Hunt & Co.
of Whampoa.

To
Oliver H. Perry Esqr
U. S. Consul for Canton.

True Copy.
Thos. J. Reynolds

Despatch No 3. Exhibit C.
28 Jany. 1857.

Copy.

United States Flag Ship 'San Jacinto'
Hong Kong. 20th Jany. 1857.

Dear Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th inst. enclosing a copy of your 'Protest' to the Imperial Commissioner Yeh.

We, on board this Ship, fortunately escaped the atrocious attempt at poisoning; as our bread came from another baker. On board the 'Levant', Captain Smith, with several of his officers & men were quite ill from its effect; as also, were several of our Marines stationed on shore at the hospital.

I am happy to say, however, that there has not been a single fatal case among them, & that they are all now entirely recovered from the

His Excellency
Peter Parker
U. S. Commissioner &c &c &c
Macao

the effects of the poison.

Agreeably to your request I forward herewith a copy of the reply of the Imperial Commissioners to my communication of the 12th Dec.r last.

I am,

My dear Sir

Very Respectfully

Your Obed.t Serv.t

(Signed) Jas Armstrong.

Com.g U.S. Naval Forces

East India & China Seas

True Copy.

Thos Reynolds

(Copy.) Translation.

Yeh, Imperial Commissioner, Governor General of the Two Kwang Provinces, a Baron of the Empire &c. &c. hereby replies.

I received your communication of the 12th inst. on the 21st. I have made myself acquainted with its purport. In it you observe: "That one of my Ships of war stationed at Canton, if it receive no national injury, will certainly cause no risk to peace, has no intention of interfering." As for myself, I clearly understand that it will be so, but I am apprehensive lest, in the event of an engagement, the people will be so excited & hurried, that it will be very difficult to manage the presence of your Ship properly. If some (of the Americans) should be hit by mistake, it would endanger the friendly relations existing between us. Consequently

the

the best plan by far is for you to leave the River, as I mentioned in my former communication to you.

In regard to what you say about my issuing a proclamation for the information of the people, & inclosing a copy of the same to you for your inspection. I would further observe, that, as the English have on this occasion acted in such a violent & unreasonable manner, cannonading the City for several days, by which many of the dwellings of the people have been burned & destroyed, they are greatly exasperated & full of revenge. If their forces get together & an engagement should take place, it would be almost impossible then to take precautions (about your Countrymen), & such would be their excitement that it would be nearly or quite useless to issue a proclamation.

Your Excellency is already aware

of my friendly feelings & desire for peace & harmony:
& I now request that you would follow the
suggestion in my communication of the 10th
inst. & then every thing will be proper & secure.

For this I reply, hoping at the same
time that you daily enjoy happiness.

To Commodore Armstrong.
Commander in Chief of the U. S. Naval Forces.

22 Dec: 1856

True Copy
Signed A Vanden Heuval
Commodores Secy

True Copy
Thos J Reynolds

Despatch No 3 Exhibit C2
28 Jany. 1857.

(Copy)

Legation of the United States
Macao. 23rd January 1857.

C2

Sir,

Herewith I have the honor to transmit you a copy of a note from H. P. Blanchard United States Vice Consul. Whampoa, under date of the 21st inst. communicating information that the graves of the men belonging to the U. S. Squadron recently interred on Danes Island have been desecrated by Chinese subjects, in a manner most revolting.

Before addressing the Imperial Government upon the subject I beg to submit for your consideration, the expediency of examining the said graves when the truth or falsehood of the report will be substantiated.

If true, then not only has the seventeenth Article of the Treaty been violated, which gnarrantees our cemeteries from desecration, but the alleged discrimination has not been made in the distribution of rewards

for

Commodore James Armstrong.
Commander in Chief of the United States
Naval forces East India & Chinaseas
Flag Ship "San Jacinto"
Hong Kong.

for foreign heads - by the Chinese Authorities, a new item of grave moment will be added to the grievances already sustained by the U. S. Government in China.

I remain
Sir
Very Respectfully
Your Obed. Servt.
(Signed) Peter Parker

Despatch No. 3. Exhibit C. 3.
28th. Jany. 1857.

(Copy.)

U. S. Flag Ship 'San Jacinto'
Hong Kong 26th. Jany. 1857. C3

Sir.

I have received your communication of the 23rd. inst. with enclosure of a communication from Mr Blanchard.

The revolting outrage alluded to is an act consistent with the character of the rabble of a half civilized people, but, I fear there will be difficulty in fixing it upon any responsible parties.

If however, it is in violation of treaty stipulations, it would properly be a subject for your investigation. How far it is expedient at the present time to raise questions easily evaded by a party so disposed, for which there is scarcely a tangible means of redress, further than protest, your own judgment can best decide.

I am, Sir,

Very Respectfully
Your Obed. Servt.
(Signed) Jas. Armstrong.
Comg. U. S. Naval Forces
East India & China Seas.

His Excellency
Peter Parker,
U. S. Commissioner to China
Macao.

True Copy.
Thos. Reynolds

Despatch No 3. Exhibit D!
28th Jan 7. 1857.

Consulate of the United States,
Amoy, Jany 5, 1856.

Sir.

I am in receipt of Your Despatch of the 17th October last, and also of that of the 15th ultimo, in which you express surprise that I should have settled several questions of difference with the Chinese authorities, and obtained our rights, in what you seem to regard as a somewhat summary and unauthorized manner. I must also, with all due deference, be allowed to express my surprise, that Your Excellency should desire, in a still more summary manner, to unsettle the vexed questions which I had been so fortunate as to adjust after protracted and annoying delays, in a manner that had been acquiesced in by the principal parties interested. I notified the chief of the Chinese local authorities (the Taoutai,) before I wrote you on the subject, apprizing him of the mode in which it was proposed the several questions should be disposed of, as a last alternative - and he made no objection to it; but, to my surprise, the first note of complaint I hear, comes from the Representative of my own Government - complaining, not, that I have yielded too much to the Chinese, but that I have trenched upon their rights, and the prerogatives of the Legation, in obtaining indemnification for wrongs and injuries which every other mode of redress had failed of accomplishing.

And Your Excellency seems to regard the fact of my receiving from the payment of six or eight thousand dollars of duty (which were in the hands of a British Merchant,) "the paltry sum of $362," as an infraction of my instructions not to resort to the extreme measure of "stopping the duties." I can scarcely suppose that our Government at home could have intended any such technical meaning to be deduced from that instruction; and I am surprised that Your Excellency should have given it such a

[Construction.

His Excellency Peter Parker,
U.S. Commissioner
&c &c

construction. I supposed the intention was to inhibit the general stopping of duties, as a retaliative means of redress, for an indefinitely fixed time, and for an indefinite amount - as, for instance, was the case, recently, at Tschakow, as I am informed. But it seems I may have been mistaken.

However, if I have been so unfortunate as to misconstrue and misjudge the meaning of these instructions, what has been the actual harm? what the result? Why, I have succeeded in getting restitution, in part, at least, of the property robbed from the Missionary Chapel, and compensation for the balance, and for other property stolen, and for other claims which it was our right to demand. And this, after every other available means had been exhausted, without obtaining our rights, and to no purpose. Even Your Excellency, to whom the case of the church burglary was submitted, as long ago as when you were at Amoy, in July last, had failed in obtaining redress; and I did not suppose that Your Excellency desired to be further troubled with such "trivial" affairs.

We have, furthermore, impressed the Mandarins with a feeling of respect for our firmness and resolution in asserting our rights, and convinced them that we are not to be trifled with, nor to have our claims put off with an endless clamor of unruly promises, without any intention of carrying them into practice.

But how am I now to comply with Your new instructions to make an immediate return to the Hoo Ewan, of the moneys I had reserved as indemnity for the losses and damages sustained? The measure which I adopted, of taking pay from the duties, had the effect, as I have stated above, to induce the Chinese subordinate authorities promptly to recover and return a greater portion of the property stolen from the Church. And I had proposed to deposite the money I had detained from the duties as compensation for the church property, with the Taotai of Amoy,

and

CORD.

and leave it with him to pay it to those who had returned the goods, or to return it to the Hawaiians, as he should judge proper. And this was acquiesced in by the Hawaiians, who sent back the property.

And as the whole matter had been referred to the Taoitae at the time, the money, if returned, could properly only be returned through him. I therefore, according to arrangement, called on him on the 30th ultimo, accompanied by Rev. E. Doty, as Interpreter, and my son, as assistant.

Having, previous to the reservation of the indemnification money, exhausted all other efforts in my power to obtain a settlement of the claims, I had no occasion on this visit, (especially after the receipt of your despatch,) for re-opening the negociation a questions thus put to rest, with any view of pursuing them further myself being obliged, as a necessity, to refer the further disposition of the matter to the higher authorities, if the existing satisfactory arrangement was to be broken up, and the whole question again set afloat.

Accordingly, I propounded a question in writing, to the Taoitae, at the opening of the interview alluded to, through the Rev. Mr. Doty, in the following terms:

"The Consul of the United States wishes to inquire,
"whether His Excellency, the Taoitae, desires the affair of the claim
"of $350, for property stolen and money unpaid, as explained by
"the Consul, in a note of the 10th of November last, shall be
"considered as remaining settled by the money received from
"the duties of the "Hornet"? Or, whether His Excellency would
"prefer to leave that money paid over to the Hawaiians, and have
"the question of the stolen property and money debt settled
"by the higher authorities of the two nations?

"A part of the stolen church property has been returned
"lately - the value of which will be paid over to His Excellency, if
"he concludes to let the matter remain as before arranged - which
"arrangement he can make such a disposition of as he deems just & proper."

It will be seen, by the statement of Mr. Doty, that as a final answer to the whole matter, "the Taoutae himself proposed that Mr. Hyatt should hold the said withheld duties, viz: $350 - until the thieves were caught and property restored - when the Taoutae would receive the money, and so the whole affair should be settled."

The Taoutai's proposition, as stated by Mr. Doty, in full, is as follows:

"Amoy Dec 30, 1836. At the invitation of T. H. Hyatt, Esq. I accompanied him, as Am. Consul, on a call on the Taoutae of Amoy, and acted as Interpreter. The subject of discussion was the withholding of duties by Mr. Hyatt, viz. $350 - on account of certain robberies committed by Chinese, and dereliction of duty - a failing of active efforts of the Chinese authorities, to seize the thieves & restore the goods stolen & other matters set forth in a Communication of Mr. Hyatt to the Taoutae of Nov. 10th. The issue of the above interview & discussion is - that the Taoutae himself proposed, that Mr. Hyatt should hold the said withheld duties - viz: $350. until the thieves should be were caught and property restored - when the Taoutae would receive the money - and so the whole affair should be settled. It was proposed by Mr. Hyatt to pay over to the Taoutae a proper proportion of the withheld duties, in consideration of the Chandelier stolen from the Church of the Am. Mission which has been returned. After some conversation, the Taoutae proposed this matter should stand in abeyance, and be finally settled in connection with the whole affair. Mr. Hyatt in the meantime, continue to hold the money viz: the $350. The discussion was concerning the robberies & the withholding of the duties - other matters were not formally introduced - but reference was constantly had made to the contents of the Communication of Nov 10th - the precise nature of which I have no knowledge.

(Signed) E. Doty."

The subject matter of the note of Nov. 10th, to which
reference was made during this interview, is as follows:

"As to the American missionary chapel, in
"Ningpo, which was robbed several months ago, by Chinese robbers,
"the property has not been returned, although it was well known
"to the Chinese authorities, some months since, where it was to
"be found; and so with the boats, guns &c. stolen from the Consul;
"although the Consul offered to show the police authorities where
"the property could be found, nothing was done by them to recover it,
"until now all trace of the property have been lost sight of. And so
"with the $250 due from the Darbee & Gasma fishermen [for money borrowed &c]
"no efforts have been made to collect the money, although they are abundantly
"able to pay. In view of these facts, the Consul finds no other
"resource to obtain compensation for the property stolen, and for the
"money due him, which the Chinese authorities are bound by
"Treaty to restore, than to retain the amount of his claims, and
"that of the missionaries, in all, $350- out of the moneys
"chargeable for duties on goods shipped on board the American
"ship "Hercules" which has just been loading with tea, at this
"port, for the United States.

"Our ships and people pay duties to the Chinese
"Government, in large amounts, yearly, and in return, we are
"entitled to our own rights, and to have the damages done us by
"the delinquent Chinese, made good to us. If they will not
"pay or indemnify us, we must indemnify ourselves, in the
"most direct & practicable way."

All these vexatious matters are now, it will be seen, virtually settled, and, I doubt not, permanently disposed of, so far as the Chinese authorities are concerned; for there is scarcely a shadow of a probability that they will make any further efforts to recover the property - but will, most probably, collect the money debt, and appropriate it to their own uses - and there let the whole matter rest. Or if, perchance, they should hereafter recover the stolen property, which their delay has rendered almost hopeless, they will have, of course, the privilege of doing so.

Under these facts and circumstances I presume your Excellency will be satisfied that it is better to let the present arrangement remain as it is, than to set the whole thing again afloat on an endless train of procrastination, evasion and uncertainty, and make it necessary for the claimants to look to the Legation & to their own Government, for the restitution of the amounts for which they now hold a sufficient indemnity.

And if your Excellency desires that in future all such matters should be referred to the Legation, rather than be settled as this has been, I shall be most willing so to refer them, as it will save me a great deal of unpleasant and vexatious labor in chasing the tortuous windings and prevarications of Chinese duplicity and tergiversation. And if your Excellency is not satisfied, under the circumstances, with the arrangement I have made in these matters, I desire your further advice on the subject before taking any other action thereon.

Perhaps I ought to add, that my late interview with the Taotae was a most cordial one, throughout; he having manifested the utmost courtesy and friendly feeling; and on my leaving, caused an honorary salute to be fired &c.

I would also state that the person who was imprisoned nearly a year since for renting a chapel to Chinese Christian converts, and whose case has several times been brought to your notice, is still in prison at Chaychow — the Taotae saying that the case having been referred to the Governor-General at Foochow, he cannot, in its present state, interfere; and as I have already exhausted all the powers with which I am invested, in the premises, I must also leave it for the Legation and the higher Chinese authorities to settle. Although the poor fellow is said to be in a most wretched, & squalid condition.

Respectfully Yours

T. H. Hyatt



Despatch No 3. Exhibit D 2

28th Jany. 1857.

(Copy)

Legation of the United States.

Macao 21st January 1857.

Sir,

Your despatch of the 5th inst has been received, acknowledging mine of the 12th Oct & 15th Decr. Referring to the latter you represent me as expressing surprize that you should have settled several questions of difference with the Chinese Authorities, & obtained our rights, in a somewhat summary & unauthorized manner, & express your own surprize that I should desire in a still more summary manner to unsettle the vexed questions you had been so fortunate as to adjust, & state that the first note of complaint you hear comes from the Representative of your own

T. H. Hyatt Esqr.
U. S. Consul
Amoy.

over Government &c. It is unnecessary to enter upon a refutation of these statements. a reference to my despatch will show them to be utterly unfounded. The only surprize therein expressed was that notwithstanding the Instructions of the Department of State, communicated to you on the 26th January 1856, you had, for trifling losses by burglary, & a bad debt, resorted to the extreme measure of stopping the duties. The instructions I deemed it my duty to transmit you on learning that fact, I now confirm, & await your reply informing me that you have conformed thereto. The only point of resemblance between your own act & the one at Foh Chow, to which you refer is that <u>both</u> were in violation of the instructions of the home Government. The occasion in one instance being for burglary & a bad debt, in the other, on account of the <u>death</u> of a U. S. Citizen

by

by Chinese hands.

I shall not fail to address, at the first moment practicable, the Vice-Roy at Fuh Chow, in behalf of the innocent Chinese whom I regret to learn is still incarcerated.

You will learn from the local Journals the deplorable state of foreign relations to the Chinese here in the South, & it is of great importance that the utmost prudence be exercised at the other Ports, & that no pretext be furnished the Chinese, Officers or People, to disturb the friendly relations.

Respectfully
Your Obed. Serv.t
Peter Parker

Despatch No 3. Exhibit C!

28 January 1857.

(Copy.) Legation of the United States.

Macao 28th January 1857.

Sir,

The Undersigned Commissioner & Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to China on the 1st November last had the honor to receive Your Excellency's Despatches of the 12th & 13th October, relative to the murder of an American Citizen, & the stopping of duties by the U. S. Consul, consequent thereon, and requesting that as the criminal had been arrested, had confessed his guilt, & the law was taking its course in regard to him, that the Undersigned would instruct the Consul to pay up the duties detained &c. Unable to reply to Your Excellency before leaving Shanghai, it was the design of the Undersigned

His Excellency to

Wang Tsih.

Vice-Roy of the Min & Chih Provinces.

&c &c &c

Fuh Chow.

to avail himself of the first opportunity after reaching the South, to do so, not foreseeing that his attention would be completely absorbed by the extraordinary state of affairs which he found at the Port of Canton. However, from Woosung, the Undersigned addressed the Consul, C. Jones Esqre instructing him "when the specific object for which he had detained the duties" is attained, viz. the punishment of the murderer of Mr. Cunningham according to the laws of China, to pay back the duties." The Undersigned has received & perused with much satisfaction Your Excellency's Proclamation of the 14th October, & learn therefrom that the Prefect & the Judge had memorialized the Court in relation to the Criminal Tsing Hoâ Kwan.

Under date of 11th November last, Mr. Consul Jones wrote that the Hae Kwan had informed him "that it would not be long

before

before orders would be received from Peking, respecting the murder of Mr. Cunningham.

It will afford the Undersigned great pleasure to hear that the instructions of the Hing Poo (the Criminal Board at Peking) have been received, Tsing, Hwâ Keuen punished according to the laws of China, that the Consul conformably to his orders has paid over all the duties detained, that henceforth, the amicable commercial relations of the two Governments at Foo Chow may never again for a moment be interrupted.

The Undersigned avails himself of the occasion to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of his esteem high consideration & has the honor to remain. Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most Obed. Serv.t

Peter Parker

(L.S.)

Dispatch No. 3. Exhibit E. 2

28 Jany. 1857.

Legation of the United States

Macao, 23d January 1857

Sir,

The Undersigned, Commissioner and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to China, has the honor to address your Excellency in relation to a subject of complaint, made jointly by Messrs Stronach, Douglas, & Hinckley, British subjects, and Messrs Doty & Talmage, citizens of the United States, to the Consuls of the United States and Great Britain at Amoy, on the 16th October 1855, and again on 1st July 1856, relating to certain acts of persecution of Christians worshiping at Shih-ma and Pek-she-wei-ying, &c.

The Undersigned, on the 4th of July, received a visit on board the U. S. sloop Levant from Chaou Yin-chuen, the Taotai of Amoy, when in person this subject was considered, and the Undersigned was gratified to receive the assurance of H. E. that he might rely upon him, in conjunction with the consuls to attend to this subject, & to do all in his power for these gentlemen in a just and reasonable manner. An

that

To His Excellency Wang

Gov. Gen. of Min & Chek.

&c &c

that occasion the immediate release from prison in Changchaw of one Wang Yuen-shay (王員爺) who had been pronounced by the local authorities to be without crime was requested. The Undersigned was much pleased with the just sentiments & fair promises of the Taotai; & relying upon him to do all that was necessary, he deemed it unnecessary to bring the subject to your Excellency's notice on his arrival, a few days after, at Tsuchaw

The Undersigned is now informed by the U. S. Consul at Amoy, that this innocent man is still detained in prison, where he has suffered greatly from hunger, destitution & disease, while his wife has died, & his family has been scattered, &c.

The Undersigned, as behooves him, now addresses your Excellency, and now requests that this innocent Wang Yuen-shay may be released from prison without delay; & that Y. E. will issue instructions to the local authorities of Amoy & Changchaw, that they exert themselves to put a stop to the evils of which these gentlemen complain, as is most reasonable & just.

The Undersigned avails himself of the

occasion

occasion to renew to Y. E. the assurance of his high regard, and has the honor to remain,

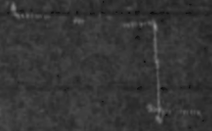
Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient Servant

Peter Parker

(L. S.)



Despatch No. 3. Exhibit A.
28 Jany. 1857.

(Copy.)

Ningpo 10th December 1856.

To His Excellency
Peter Parker. &c &c &c

Dear Sir.

Yours of the 3rd November has been received some time since, & my only reason for delaying to answer it thus long was that it might be certainly known whether Dr. McCartee would leave for the United States, or return to Ningpo; he has now left. In answer to your communication requesting me to act as Consular Agent until another individual shall be appointed, I can only say, that I am willing under the circumstances, to discharge the indispensable duties of the office; & I hope, Sir, that as I consent to do even this very reluctantly, it will not be long before I am relieved. Our Mission has been recently much reduced by the return to America of a number of our Brethren, & I now find myself much pressed with labors of a directly Missionary kind, & it is only because I feel the need of some United States Official here, & see no one else to act as such, that I am willing to do what I can in the matter.

Dr. McCartee has delivered over to me the Consular Seal, Archives, & National

Flag &c

Flag &c. which are now in my possession.

Thus far we are very quiet at our Port, but we all feel the importance of having a Man of war vessel stationed here, & I would request you to give this matter a consideration

I am, dear Sir,

Very Respectfully

Yours &c.

Signed / R. D. Way /

True Copy.
Thos. Reynolds.

Despatch no 3. Exhibit G.
28th Jany. 1857.

(Copy)

Consulate of the U S of N. America.
Shanghae. 20th Jany. 1857.

To. His Excellency.
Dr. Peter Parker.
Commissioner. etc. etc.

Sir.

Referring to your despatch dated 9th August 1856 directing me to adjust the duty question with the Chinese Authorities in accordance with the terms of Mr. McLane's award. I now have to state that the whole subject has been closed in accordance therewith. Enclosed please find Copies of letter & Receipt in English as well as Chinese from H.E. Lay. Chief Superintendent &c &c. The Receipts of Mr. Heard. H.E. would not accept but I convinced H.E. they were in the terms of Mr. McLane's award & therefore H.E. has given here the Receipt in full for the account declared by that award. 1 & 2

You will observe H.E. says he has communicated with the Governor &c. that is only a Chinese method of getting over personal responsibility.

I consider the whole subject

closed

closed. I have therefore transmitted the final papers to the Honorable Secretary of State, & now avail of the earliest opportunity to advise you.

I have the honor to be
Your Most Obed. Servt.
(Signed) R. C. Murphy.

True Copy.
Thos. Reynolds

(Copy)

Inclosure

No. 1.

Law, by the Emperor of the Ta-tsing dynasty of China, advanced & promoted to be Prefect of Tang-chau, Acting Intendent of Su-Chau, Sung-Keang, and Taitsang, & Superintendent of Maritime Customs at Shang Hae hereby makes a communication.

In the Honorable Consul's reply to me it is stated that "herewith I return "four Ships papers (Port clearance) 2481 T. 1. M. C. C. "and send likewise in Sycee 218 taels, 4 mace, "4 Candereens 2 Cash, including formerly "delivered receipts, papers (from Canton) & the "Sycee delivered by Consul Fish these show "a sum total 118,125 taels 8 mace 4 Candereens "1 Cash exactly corresponding to the sum "awarded by Commissioner McLane, & I request "you will give a duplicate Receipt in full" &c. &c.

Now I find among the receipts come to hand, there are nineteen papers, receipts, from the House of Heard & Co. all bearing date prior to Sept. 7th 1853. but having often in our personal interviews, urged the case of Heard & Co. it has really appeared that the house could not manage the payment. I have therefore clearly stated

the

the case to my Superior (the governor) that he may memorialize the Emperor to request its remission. Reckoning the Import & Export duties & tonnage dues, owing from the Merchants from the 7th September 1858. to 12th July 1854. according to Commissioner Mr. Lane's decision, the amount in full has been received, winding up & clearing off the entire case.

Accordingly two papers, principal & duplicate Receipts have been duly written out & with the nineteen (now) viciate receipts from Heard & Co's House, are herewith sent to you.

For this purpose I make this communication, & beg you will receive & examine (the aforesaid documents); & I also beg you will return to me the receipt for 875 92 taels & odd, given to Vice Consul Fish, that I may cancel the same, so as to prevent (its seeming to have been) twice received.

Hoping that you will take the due action, & that this may reach him to whom it is addressed.

Keen fung 6th year. 11th Moon 22nd day.
(A. D. 18th Dec. 1856).

(L.S.)

To Consul Murphy.

translated by
Revd Dr. Bridgman.

True Copy.
Thos. F. Reynolds.

(Copy)

Inclosure

No. 2.

Law, by the Emperor of the Tatsing dynasty of China, advanced & promoted to be Prefect of Yangchau, Acting Intendant of Suchau, Sung-kiang, & Taitsang, & Superintendent of Maritime Customs at Shanghae hereby gives this his Receipt:

Of the Import & Export duties Hommage dues owing & unpaid by American Merchants from 7th Sept. 1853. to 12th July 1854. Commissioner McLane decided that T. 118,125. m. 8. c. 4. c. 1 should be paid, of this first there was received in Sycee — T. 81,592. m. 2. c. 0. c. 2. — also have been received, in receipts due since 7th September 1853, & in papers from Canton. shewing duties there paid 27,455.8.4.5. & now have been received in Sycee 218.4.4.2. Thus making received in all 109,266.4.8.9. to which add the receipts of Hearsey 8859.3.5.2. which latter amount has been by me clearly reported to H.E. (the Governor) that he may memorialize the Emperor & request its remission.

Reckoning the whole in full — T. 118,125. m. 8. c. 4. c. 1 it corresponds with the sum awarded by Commissioner Mc Lane winds up & clears off the entire case accordingly

as

as is right. I now give this my Receipt Duplicate to be held (as evidence of the settlement) may it reach him to whom it should be received.

To Consul Murphy.

Keanfung. 6th Year
11th moon. day.

Seal of the Commissioner of Customs of the province of Keang-nan.

L S

Translated by
Revd Dr Bridgman

True Copy.
Thos Reynolds